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Portfolio

£42,000 to be won

There is £42,000 to be won in *The Times* Portfolio competition today - the weekly prize of £40,000 plus the £2,000 daily prize. Yesterday's £2,000 prizewinner was Mr J. H. Woodhouse, of Ealing, W13. Portfolio list, page 22; prize changes, back page Information Service.

Exports hit record £6.54 bn

The pound rallied to \$1.735 with exports reaching a record £6.45 billion last month. Britain's current account surplus totalled £278 million, with the trade deficit dropping to £122 million from October's £888 million.

Trade in manufactured goods returned to surplus, reflecting an overall rise of 15 per cent in exports to the US.

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Miners' cash unfrozen

The National Union of Mineworkers has won back partial control of the £2.7 million it moved to the Irish Republic, after a Dublin court ruled that the assets should be unfrozen.

Page 2

Maxwell helps out Southend

Robert Maxwell, the Oxford United chairman, and Ken Bates, his Chelsea counterpart, have loaned Southend United, the financially troubled fourth division club, £70,000 to spare them bankruptcy proceedings.

Page 24

£700m error

The Government has admitted a £700 million error in its published council grant figures.

Page 2

Air fare cuts

The US and British governments have formally agreed to approve winter transatlantic air fare cuts, the State Department announced.

Drought ends

The drought that has devastated much of Southern Africa north of the Limpopo for the past three years has ended.

Page 6

Early sale

Britain's Royal Ordnance factories are to be privatized on January 2, more than a year earlier than expected, the Government announced yesterday.

Ford arbitration

Ford management has agreed to arbitration by an independent job evaluation panel in the five-week strike by 270 women sewing machinists that has crippled car production.

Liverpool win

Liverpool moved up to fifth place in the first division, their highest position this season, by winning 2-0 at Queen's Park Rangers last night.

Captain wanted

Wales needs a new rugby union captain quickly, after the resignation of Watkins on Thursday. Holms is the favourite, with Ackerman the outsider.

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Leader Page 9

Letters On heavy lorries, from Mr. D. Wenzel, and Mr. J. Wardrop; business disincantations, from Mr. R. G. Taylor; historic homes; from Mr. A. M. Alexander.

Leading article Mrs. Thatcher in Washington; Poet Laureate. Obituary, page 10

Marshall Dmitry Ustinov, Sir John Bann.

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Power shift in Politburo after death of Ustinov

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Marshall Dmitry Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister and a powerful influence in the Kremlin, has died at the age of 76. The last night ended months of speculation by announcing that he had died on Thursday "after a grave illness". It did not elaborate.

The Kremlin announcement, released on Tass and read on Moscow television, said the leadership had learned "with deep sorrow" of the death of "an outstanding figure". An obituary signed by President Chernenko said Marshal Ustinov had led a "vivid, glorious life", and had held senior posts in the economy and defence industries.

It praised his role as wartime armaments Minister, adding that he had "made a considerable contribution to developing rocketry and exploring outer space".

The Marshal had not been seen in public since the end of September, when he presented medals to President Chernenko. Alarm rose on November 7, when Marshal Ustinov failed to attend the military parade marking the anniversary of the Revolution. The parade was reviewed instead by Marshal Sergei Sokolov, one of Marshal Ustinov's first deputies, who is 73.

The other two are Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, 67, the new Chief of Staff and Marshal Viktor Kulikov, 63, commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Pact.

Marshall Sokolov, Marshal Akhromeyev and General Viktor Chibrikov of the KGB are to serve on the funeral commission, but not Marshal Kulikov.

Tass said the funeral commission was headed by Mr. Grigory Romanov, aged 61, a Politburo member, indicating that he may succeed Marshal Ustinov rather than one of the marshal's deputies, all of whom are professional military men.

There was speculation over whether the Kremlin would appoint a military figure such as Marshal Sokolov as Defence Minister. Marshal Ustinov was a party official by origin, and thus the first civilian to head the armed forces since Trotsky.

Continued on back page, col 6



Scottish welcome: Mr Mikhail Gorbachev receiving a gift of shortbread from Andrew Campbell, a castle warden, during his visit to Holyrood Castle, Edinburgh, yesterday.

Gorbachov leaves early

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the senior Politburo member, cut short his visit to Britain yesterday as news came from Moscow of the death of Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister.

Mr Gorbachov had arrived in Scotland when his plans were dramatically changed. He told reporters at Edinburgh airport that he and his delegation had been recalled to Moscow.

Marshall Ustinov, "our old friend and comrade at arms", had passed away. That was indeed a great and tragic loss, he said. Mr Gorbachov was to have left Scotland for the Soviet Union later today.

A banquet at Edinburgh Castle went ahead without the Soviet delegation. Instead, residents of an Edinburgh old people's home were invited to enjoy the occasion and the food in the King's Hall of the castle.

Gorbachov bids links, page 4

Leading article, page 9

Christmas choice highlights the North-South divide

By Staff Reporters

Britons are treating themselves to the good life at Christmas this year, either flying abroad for skiing holidays or drinking champagne at home.

Thousands of enthusiasts have had a disappointing arrival at the ski resorts of Europe, many of which are still green when they should be white with snow.

The main anti-climax for many is that they are unable to ski down the slopes back to the village settlements. Instead they have to make the descent by cable car, the same way they ascended.

Tour operators and tourists' boards acknowledged the temporary crisis, but insist that

some Christmas Eve there should be a heavier snowfall. It is chiefly in the low altitude areas where there is a dearth of snow.

The Austrian Tourist Board admitted that many valleys, especially in the Tyrol, were more verdant than they should be, but said that the valley glaciers were good for skiing.

"This year the problem has been particularly bad, but it is changing," it said. In many resorts where there were only 20 centimeters of snow in the valleys, there are as much as 130 centimeters on the summits.

In Switzerland much of the snowfall is "powdery" and unlikely to withstand skiers

unless mechanically compacted.

Even so, thousands of skiers are still flying out. Tour operators have reported few cancellations as a result of the unseasonal weather.

The number of flights to hotter climates is also up, with most passengers taking holidays in the Mediterranean sun spots, and the Caribbean.

In Britain, southerners have been enjoying a Christmas spending spree, but northerners have had to stint. That is largely attributed to the miners' strike. While Parisians and Massons have been selling Christmas hampers at £600 each to Londoners, stores in Doncaster have been having a "drastic time".

One department store is said to have been losing £1.4 million a week, over the Christmas period because of the loss of miners' salaries among the takings.

Countrywide, sales of table wines have gone up by about 30 per cent on last year, and champagne is the biggest seller among the sparkling wines, in spite of the £1 increase on each since last year.

The wine sales boom and the rush for champagne was reported by Victoria Wine, part of Allied Lyons and the biggest off-licence business in the country with more than 800 outlets.

Champagne sales are a little behind those of last Christmas but it is still outstripping any

other type of sparkling wine, Victoria Wine said. The chain has Moët and Chandon on sale at the promotional price of £8.69.

Waitrose, the supermarkets chain which is part of the John Lewis Partnership, said: "People are buying our own-label champagne by the case. That way it works out at £5.70 a bottle. No sooner are the shelves filled than they are emptied again."

The wine sales boom has been building up since the last Budget favoured wines on taxation and reduced prices.

The Post Office has carried more mail than it did last year this Christmas. As may be 105.4 million letters and cards were posted on Monday



Lord and Lady Spencer with Mrs Shand-Kydd (far right) leaving St George's Chapel yesterday.

Prince Henry christened in style

By Tony Samstag

Prince Henry Charles Albert David was christened in St George's Chapel at Windsor, yesterday.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, performed the ceremony at the gilded lily font used since Victorian days; while the three-month-old infant, dressed in the traditional Honiton lace robes used by generations of Royal babies, cried only once during the 20-minute service.

Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips alone among the Royal Family did not attend the service, although their two children, Master Peter and Miss Zara Phillips, were present.

Buckingham Palace described the couple's absence as unfortunate.

It was because of "a long-standing private engagement that had been fixed far in advance of the christening," a spokesman added. Princess Anne and Captain Phillips were due to attend the traditional Christmas party at Windsor later.

They spent much of the day shooting with Captain Phillips' father, Major Peter Phillips, and returned to their home at Gatcombe Park, Gloucestershire, late in the afternoon with "a good bag" of rabbits, the Palace said.

Prince Henry's brother, Prince William, aged 2½, attended the service, which a chorister described as "a quiet family affair, a very moving and charming service".

Prince Henry had cried only "for two or three minutes while the Archbishop was 'blessing the holy water'." He was quiet as a mouse throughout the rest of the baptism.

A nursery had been set up at the castle overnight under the supervision of Miss Barbara Barnes. The Princess of Wales was the first to arrive in the morning, with the Prince of Wales, driving his Jaguar, close behind, just ahead of Princess Margaret and Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones. The Queen, Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Andrew, Prince Edward and the Queen Mother arrived in a conveyer.

Princess Andrew and Lady Sarah were chosen as Royal godparents. Prince Henry's other godparents are Mr Brian Organ, the royal portrait painter; Mrs Carolyn Bartholomew, a former flatmate of the Princess of Wales; Lady Vestey and Mr Gerald Ward, a long-standing friend of the Prince of Wales.

The Princess of Wales's family attended in force: Lord Spencer, her father, and his wife Lady Spencer; the Hon Mrs Shand-Kydd, her mother; Lord Ashorp, her brother, and Lady Sarah McCorkindale and Lady Jane Fellowes, her sisters.

Debate on GLC abolition Bill to be guillotined after 80 hours

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Government is to risk another parliamentary storm by cutting short debate on its chief measure of the session, the Local Government Bill, at the earliest feasible date.

The Cabinet has decided that a guillotine should be imposed early in February, within a month of the return of MPs from their Christmas recess, which began yesterday.

Ministers are deeply concerned at the likelihood of long delays in the House of Lords to the Bill, which is to abolish the Greater London Council and the metropolitan councils and distribute their functions among other authorities.

To give the Lords as much time as they will require, the Bill must complete its passage through the Commons by the beginning of April.

The intention is to resort to the guillotine after 80 hours of limited debate on the Bill in standing committee. Opposition MPs on the committee will be angry at what they will see as a breach in a convention which requires a minimum of 120 hours of discussion over six weeks before an important Bill is guillotined.

Eighty hours, they argue, is

normal only for a short measure such as the Rates Bill enacted in the last parliamentary session, which had 19 clauses. The Local Government Bill has 98 clauses, and 17 schedules, which more than double its length.

The Government's plans will be challenged as soon as the committee reconvenes on January 10. The Opposition has agreed to sit twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and will find that the sessions will sit regularly until after midnight so that the 80-hour tally is reached by February 5.

The 15 Labour and three Alliance MPs will not shake the Government's majority of 11 on the unusually large 47-member committee. But the Government can expect a renewed outbreak of hostility from Conservative critics of the Bill when it asks the approval of the whole House for the guillotine motion.

The Government's exceptional forcing of the pace may aggravate the difficulty it is designed to resolve. The proposal is that the guillotine, or

timetable, if imposed early, will allow generous time for each part of the Bill to be debated.

But in practice the guillotine process, which destroys any willingness to co-operate, always leaves many clauses undiscussed. The Lords, on past practice, will think it their duty to pay special attention to the undiscussed clauses, so tending to take up all the time that the Government hopes to save.

At the same time, the rules of procedure in the Lords do not allow for timetable, and the Government wishes have few sanctions to compel Conservative peers to attend and vote.

The rare if not unprecedented decision a week ago to keelhaul Lord Alport for desertion was seen by peers in all parties as proof of both ferocity and impotence in the leader of the Lords, Lord Whitley, and the government chief whip, Lord Denham.

Ministers maintain in public that they do not expect to be forced to concede important amendments to the Bill. In private they believe that they may have to give way and allow some continuing all-London authority, possibly indirectly elected, to remain in place.

Continued on back page, col 1

Appeal to Lords on pill ruling

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Government is to appeal to the House of Lords against the Court of Appeal ruling banning the prescription of the contraceptive pill to girls under 16 without their parents' consent, but in the meantime is suspending its guidance on contraception and abortion advice for young people.

The decisions were announced yesterday as criticisms mounted of the ruling on the six-year campaign by Mrs Victoria Gillick, the Roman Catholic mother of 10 from Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

In response to "dozens" of telephone calls from worried doctors, the BMA yesterday issued its own guidance in an attempt to clear up the meaning of "emergency" - exceptional circumstances which would, according to the Court of

Appeal, allow doctors to ignore the requirement to consult parents.

The BMA said that the judgment did not suggest that a doctor who prescribed the pill for a girl under 16 to safeguard her health without telling her parents, would be guilty of an offence.

Its concern was with problem families where uncaring parents had thrown a girl aged 15 out of the house, and children were sexually abused. Doctors would have to weigh possible damage to the patient through pregnancy, with risk of action by parents "who have already shown their lack of care for the girl".

The association, which yesterday forecast more unwanted pregnancies and a return to backstreet abortions as a result of girls under 16 no longer seeing their doctors for advice, insisted that only in a "very few cases" were girls unlikely to involve parents. Doctors persuaded the great majority to get their parents' consent.

The Government's decision to appeal was announced by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of State for Health, who said that the ruling had very wide implications and the law needed to be clarified quickly. The DHSS guidance would be reviewed once the outcome of the appeal was known.

The Children's Legal Centre, a national organization dealing with laws and policies affecting young people, yesterday described the Court of Appeal judgment as "appalling", which the Royal College of Nursing said it "regretted" the decision.

Continued on back page, col 3

THE TIMES Inside

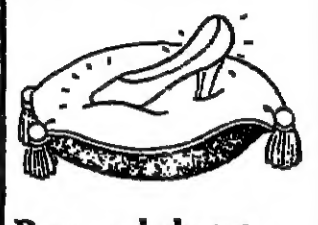


Puzzle time
£725 to be won in the Quiz of the Year and Jumbo Crossword



The perfect party
How to survive the merry-making

TV choice
Full guide to the holiday films, plus video choice



Boos and cheers
A critical eye on the Christmas productions and pantomimes

Monday

Quote, unquote
Who said what to whom in 1984... and why



The Body Quiz
A holiday game in two parts - hard and harder

THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY
Blended by James Watson & Co. Ltd.
Perth, Scotland

It's more than just the price that sets it apart.

Quality and character.

NUM gets some control of assets to fight sequestration

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

National Union of Mineworkers' leaders won back yesterday partial control of £2.7 million of assets moved to a Dublin bank to prevent the sequestration of the unions' funds.

The High Court in London was told that a Dublin court had granted an order to unfreeze some of the money so that the union could continue a legal battle to regain control of all its £8 million assets.

News of the Dublin decision came as the National Coal Board announced that 11 men abandoned the 41-week-old strike yesterday, bringing the total during the past five days to 174. In all, 16,868 men have returned since the board began a determined "back to work" campaign on November 1: 64 per cent of the union's 189,000 members are on strike.

That falls short of the board's target of getting a majority of men back to work by Christmas. It is now putting the finishing touches to fresh plans to woo more men back in the new year.

The union's success in Dublin was revealed yesterday by Mr Howard Page, counsel for the sequestrators, in the High Court.

He told Mr Justice Nicholls it was a most astonishing decision, which effectively gave the union access to funds hitherto frozen to finance a court challenge to avoid payment of a £200,000 fine for contempt and sequestration of its assets.

The court-appointed sequestrators, who may appeal against the Dublin court order, are having great difficulty in getting their hands on the assets. The judge was told yesterday that efforts to serve the union's head of administration, Mr Trevor Cave, in relation to £4.6 million transferred to a Luxembourg bank had failed. Leave was given to serve him by post.

Most pits in England and Wales will be closed for the Christmas holidays, but there is no sign of a truce between the strikers and the board. Militants fear that the board may try to move coal from the beleaguered pits; 26 out of 174 mines are completely strikebound.

However, the worst year in the board's 37-year history ended on a cautiously optimistic note as far as managers were concerned.

Priority work to get 82 more pits producing in the new year is under way, and the 66 producing collieries last week moved 600,000 tonnes, more than 100,000 tonnes above the October output level and probably enough to maintain the crucial supply target to the power stations.

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Miners in assault case lose their jobs

Four North Staffordshire miners cleared of assault were told by the NCB yesterday that they will not get their jobs back.

The men were dismissed in September after being arrested outside Hem Heath colliery at Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, and charged with assault causing actual bodily harm. They all denied the charge.

Mr David Wemyss, Mr Stan Edwards, Mr Brian McKean and Mr Keith Bolton had their case dismissed at Stoke Crown court when the prosecution offered no evidence after they all agreed to be bound over for 12 months in the sum of £50.

● Toys worth more than £10,000 given from all parts of the UK and abroad will be handed over to the families of striking Nottinghamshire miners today, Nottingham women's miners support group said the response had been "unbelievable".

● Paul Weller, the pop singer, has given £2,000 on behalf of his group, The Style Council, to the Miners' Families Christmas Appeal. Some £100,000 was raised in the past week after Mrs Glenys Kinnoch, wife of the Labour leader, called for last-minute donations.

● Customs officials have interrupted a big haul of 17,000 striking miners in north-east England. Lorryloads of chickens and turkeys from France were due to arrive yesterday at Manton miners' welfare hall, Co Durham, for distribution. An NUM spokesman said officials at Dover considered the lorryloads to be over-weight but clearance had not been given.

● A miners' support group is reporting a Conservative council to the ombudsman after the authority refused permission for door-to-door collections. Dover council refused the permission because it feared names and addresses of those not donating would be compiled.

● Ukrainian coal miners have given about £114,000 to a relief fund for striking miners, the Soviet news agency, Tass, said.

● Seven miners from Conisburgh, in South Yorkshire, have been charged in Lincoln with the theft of coal from the British Sugar Corporation factory in Bardney, Lincolnshire.

● More than two tonnes of toys for striking miners' children in Ayrshire were ferried from Northern Ireland on board a small fishing boat last night, together with large quantities of food given in Belfast.

● Police and working miners were greeted by pickets singing carols and wearing party hats at two South Wales pits yesterday.

NUM officials dressed up as Santa Claus and reindeer to serenade the 27 men going in to work at the Celynen South colliery in Gwent, scene of the worst picket line clashes in the coalfield. Toy plastic pigs were offered as presents to the 110 police on duty but none was accepted.

Photograph, page 3

compare with 9,000 men and women working in electronics.

The workers of the burgeoning and declining industries live side by side in towns and villages near by, such as Llanelli. Christmas and new year offer very different prospects to the two groups.

Yesterday, the Lochelly National Union of Mineworkers' strike centre served the final hot midday meal before the holiday. On Thursday, 200 strikers queued, silent and unsmiling, to collect a plastic carrier bag of groceries which, along with a Christmas chicken donated by a print union, had to be taken home until the soup kitchen reopened.

"It will be a pretty dismal Christmas for most of the lads," said Mr Johnny Bell, an electrician from the Castlehill pit, who was doling out two tattered £1 notes to each striker with children for stocking fillers.

"It won't buy much, but I've already got some presents for my kids," Mrs Shonagh Corrigan said. "I cashed in my insurance policies and that gave me enough to buy some presents and pay some bills."

West Mercia Police have said that they believed the murder occurred during a criminal burglary, but yesterday a spokesman said there had not been any pattern of burglaries in the area at the time of Miss Murrell's death, nor any other burglary which matched incidents at her home.

The spokesman said that the only item known to be missing was £50 in cash, withdrawn from the bank by Miss Murrell on the day she died. No sign of forced entry had been found, and this led police to believe the assailant followed the woman into her home, or used a rear entrance which she sometimes left unsecured.



Sheep: On the Craigdarroch estate, Moniaive, in Dumfries and Galloway sheep have a privileged winter ahead of them. They have been fitted with winter coats by their owner Mr Alex Sykes, above who claims it could be the start of a farming revolution.

Mr Sykes brought 500 of the synthetic polypropylene fabric coats from Australia, where they are widely used, last September. He has fitted out 100 of his flock already.

"The British Wool Marketing Council has asked me to try to encourage other farmers to adopt the same practice," Mr Sykes said. "For the coats not only keep the sheep clean, they also keep them warm, which means they eat less."

It is not the first time British sheep have been well dressed: the Romans introduced coats of jute or linen. (Photograph: Robin Bryden).

Suspect's beating charge

A man arrested last Monday after a terrorist landmine explosion and the shooting dead of his companion by the police alleged yesterday that the Royal Ulster Constabulary tried to beat him to death.

He was giving evidence during the court appearance at Armagh of Aidan Greig, aged 28, formerly of Armagh, who has been living across the border in Dundalk.

Greig is accused of the attempted murder of seven Ulster Defence Regiment members, causing an explosion and possessing two automatic pistols. He was arrested after a RUC patrol shot dead John McIlvenna, 33, a senior Provisional IRA man and a long-time fugitive, moments after a landmine had been detonated underneath a UDR mobile patrol.

Greig was remanded in custody yesterday.

After a four-day search the RUC yesterday dragged from a small river near the border in co-operation with the body of a man, who is expected to be identified today as the Maze prison escapee and IRA cross-border raider Kieran Gerard Fleming.

Police in Dublin have confirmed a report that the Provisional IRA is now believed to have the capability to manufacture a powerful and stable military explosive, RDX, which is more powerful than commercial gelatin and home-made mixtures.

Claran McMorrough, aged 34, once the most wanted terrorist suspect in Britain and still on Scotland Yard's "wanted" list, is being released early from jail by the Irish Government today.



Lord Justice Eveleigh: 40 years in the law.

Lord Justice Eveleigh, aged 67, who retired yesterday after 16 years as a judge, told a crowded Court of Appeal of the day when his ego was "well and truly deflated", soon after being appointed to the High Court.

"A woman burst through the court door, looked at me and shouted: 'You are a blithering old idiot'. It was hardly fair because I was only just 50."

"I was about to ask her how she knew when the usher turned to me and said: 'Keep quiet! I thought I was in a madhouse and wondered who was in charge.'"

MP attacks guidelines to Special Branch

Home Office guidelines on the Special Branch were criticized yesterday by Mr John Prescott, Labour employment spokesman as a threat to trade unionists.

In a letter to Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, he demands a definition of "subversive", saying that some government ministers judge, and treat trade unionists as "the enemy within".

£700m aid error in council grant report

The Government admitted yesterday that state grant available to councils had accidentally been inflated by almost £700 million in an official report.

It was the latest of several embarrassments that have dogged Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, during the annual ritual of erecting a financial framework in which local government can operate next year.

The report said that councils were entitled to almost £8,962 million next year instead of the £8,263 million which they could actually claim.

The mistake came only a few days after another part of Mr Jenkin's municipal policy was condemned as "voodoo economics" by Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak.

Mr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on local government, said that the mistake in the report was "a further blunder" by Patrick Jenkin and "yet more evidence of the shambles in the Department of the Environment".

Department staff tried to play down the incident, saying first that there had been "misprints" and later "an incorrect calculation at the drafting stage". But the department clearly took a serious view because after consulting lawyers it hastily withdrew the first version of the report and quietly laid a corrected one before Parliament.

The legal status of the incorrect document might have left ministers open to court action from councils to claim a share of the £700 million that had been written in by mistake.

"A major error has been made which would have resulted in local authorities receiving nearly £700 million more than they were entitled to," Mr Cunningham said.

The department retorted that no payment would have been made because correct figures were used elsewhere in the report. It had not worked out the cost of issuing the new document, and did not know if people who had bought the original version for £6.10 would be entitled to free copies of the new one.

While Mr Jenkin's officials corrected the £700 million windfall, two Labour-led councils were given leave in the High Court to challenge his calculation of their grant entitlements. Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire county councils have been caught by an obscure clause at the back of the report which was corrected yesterday.

Their claim has nothing to do with the £700 million mistake. It concerns a complicated trigger mechanism which can lead to a heavy loss of grant next year as a penalty for spending slightly above a limit fixed by Mr Jenkin this year.

The councils are annoyed because they are caught although their spending is below the level which would make them liable for rate-capping.

Mr Alan Fletcher, QC, said in court that the Government's formulae for fixing Nottinghamshire's spending target did not make sense.

Architects 'earn less than other professions'

Architects earn less than people in other professions, such as medicine and accountancy, according to a survey by Mr Dave Leggett, economic research officer of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Lifetime earnings (that is, over a 35-year period) for architects in the private sector were estimated in 1980-81 at just under £340,000 while hospital consultants earned more than £616,000.

Private architects earned 55 per cent of what a consultant would get, and 60 per cent of a general practitioner's income.

Figures for 1983 showed architects behind electrical, civil, mechanical and structural engineers, although they still think of themselves as "leaders of the building team".

LIFE TIME EARNINGS

Hospital consultant 2616,140

General practitioner 2588,000

Chartered accountant 2582,735

General dental practitioner 2587,550

Personal manager 2543,950

Architect (private) 2538,715

Architect (public) 2338,885

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Hospital consultant 2616,140

General practitioner 2588,000

Chartered accountant 2582,735

General dental practitioner 2587,550

Personal manager 2543,950

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Miners' strike duties cut number of police drink-driving patrols

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

There will be fewer police patrols concentrating on drink-driving offences this Christmas because of the large number of officers on special duties because of the miners' strike.

Most will be withdrawn next week, when working collieries will be closed, but they have already spent such long periods away from their families that arrangements are being made for as many as possible to have Christmas leave.

As a result some police forces will not be able to run special anti-drink campaigns this year and those with campaigns are playing down the enforcement role of the police.

Derbyshire Police, who started anti-drink patrols in 1978, have decided to abandon them "for the time being". The official explanation is that after seven years Derbyshire motorists have got the message.

Chalker defends her 'stay low' campaign

The Government's controversial "stay low" campaign against Christmas drink-driving was defended yesterday by the Minister of State for Transport, Mrs Lynda Chalker, as "one of the most powerful" ever held.

In a Commons debate she hit back at critics, such as the Automobile Association and the British Medical Association, which claimed that the campaign could encourage drinking.

She told MPs that the stark warning never to drink and drive "is just the message that turns off that target audience of younger people".

Mrs Chalker attacked criticisms that the campaign "lacked punch". It had been aimed particularly at young people, who were inexperienced as drivers and with alcohol.

"Every bit of evidence we have indicates that to adopt a heavy-handed, authoritarian approach just produces an immediate switch-off."

Mrs Chalker told Independent Radio News that the full weight of the law, including six months' imprisonment, should be used to punish motorists convicted of the worst offences of drinking and driving.

Parliament, page 4

Senior officers admit privately, however, that the extra duties in the miners' dispute have put a great strain on manpower. This year the mounting crime rate is being given higher priority than drunken driving.

Leicestershire Police said: "We shall not have as many traffic patrols as last year to spare for a drink-driving campaign and that reflects to some extent the number of officers on duty in the coalfields."

Warwickshire Police said that they would not be having "the same purge" as in previous years.

All three Yorkshire police forces (North, South and West) are not running special anti-drink campaigns. Only normal mobile patrols will be used.

A spokesman for West Yorkshire Police said: "We mounted special campaigns in

the past, but not every year and always dependent on the accident rate.

A number of chief constables are supplementing the Department of Transport's controversial "stay low" posters with their own hard-hitting versions such as Lancashire's "drive alive into 1985".

Their number includes Mr Roger Birch, Chief Constable of Sussex. In his role as chairman of the traffic committee of the Association of Chief Constables he accompanied Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, at the press conference which launched the "stay low" campaign.

But he has also issued thousands of his own posters showing a disconsolate driver being given a breath test and the words: "Think how good you'll feel if the test is negative - and so will we."

His special patrols have already breath tested 598 drivers and arrested 190 of them for giving a positive reading or refusing to take a breath test - an increase of about ten per cent on the same period last year.

In Scotland, Strathclyde Police are stepping up mobile and foot patrols over Christmas and the new year to deter drunken driving.

The Department of Transport said: "The more we are attacked and the more the campaign is talked about in controversial terms the better we like it. It makes headlines and that means it has a better chance of sticking in people's minds when they are driving this Christmas."

Police experience, a policy of voluntary disclosure should be more widely adopted.

But they added: "If there are those who have reason to believe that Lion Intoximeter 3000 devices are generally unreliable, they are, in truth, saying that they should never have received the approval of the Secretary of State... They should therefore address their representations to the Secretary of State."

The first application to quash the witness summons involved Mr Wayne Goodacre, of Boston, Lincolnshire, who is to appear before magistrates in Skegness accused of driving with excess alcohol in his blood. The second involved Mr Denis Dicks, a lorry driver, who is appealing against conviction by a Manchester Court last January.

The judges said the defence attempts were misuse of the witness summons procedure. Defence lawyers must rely upon the prosecution to disclose material which might help the defence.

Fears over Intoximeter ruling

By David Nicholson-Lord

Fears that police forces may refuse to disclose Intoximeter records to motorists disputing drunken driving charges were raised after the High Court ruled yesterday that drivers had no right to see them.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court said any general challenge to the Lion Intoximeter 3000's reliability must be made to the Home Secretary, not to the courts.

The decision is regarded as setting an important precedent in the controversy over the machine. It has been an approved device since April 1983.

Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice Gildewell said in a reserved judgement that while the Intoximeter retained this classification it was "wholly immaterial" to challenge its general reliability in individual prosecutions.

The ruling was made on the two cases in which Lincolnshire police and Dr Paul Williams, marketing director of Lion Laboratories, contested witness summonses requiring them to produce documents

including the Intoximeter log, service repair reports and test records.

Defence lawyers yesterday said the legal questions raised were of fundamental importance and an appeal to the House of Lords was likely.

Mr Alan Beavan, a barrister specializing in cases involving the Intoximeter, said the decisions meant it was now "exceedingly difficult" to challenge the reliability of a specific Intoximeter unless the difference between the two readings on the print-out was more than 10 per cent of the lower reading.

Practices on the released Intoximeter documents vary widely among police forces, but it is feared that those with "liberal" policies, such as the Metropolitan Police which disclose records on request, may now stop doing so to reduce the expense and administrative time involved.

The judges said it was up to police forces to consider whether a more uniform practice was desirable and whether, in the light of the Metropolitan

Police experience, a policy of voluntary disclosure should be more widely adopted.

But they added: "If there are those who have reason to believe that Lion Intoximeter 3000 devices are generally unreliable, they are, in truth, saying that they should never have received the approval of the Secretary of State... They should therefore address their representations to the Secretary of State."

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Duke's plea on selfish developers

The world can no longer afford to ignore the serious consequences of thoughtless and selfish development, according to the Duke of Edinburgh, president of the World Wildlife Fund.

"It is all too easy to see development as the solution of all the world's social and economic problems," he says in the fund's yearbook, published yesterday.

"Science and technology can indeed solve many problems, but they cannot replace the exploited forests, the eroded land, the silted rivers, the polluted reefs, the drained wetlands, or the rapidly disappearing genetic resources of plant and animal species integral to the life cycle on which humanity depends."

Since its formation in 1961 the fund has raised more than \$5 million dollars (£72 million), and although the sum is small compared with the needs of conservation, it has made a much bigger impact than the figure suggests, he says.

"Even so, there are all too many opportunities we cannot grasp simply through lack of resource. I hope the example of what can be done will encourage people to help us to do even better."

£600 fine in Peregrine falcon case

A man who tried to sell three Peregrine falcon chicks, an endangered wild bird, was fined £600 at Stirling Sheriff Court yesterday.

Ronald Bruce, aged 25, of Harrowhill, Wick, Caithness, was fined £150 on each of three charges of having the chicks and attempting to sell them. For possessing unregistered, ringed or unmarked birds he was fined £150.

Bruce pleaded guilty to the offences, which were committed on June 4 this year, contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Affair with girl offset in divorce settlement

A wealthy accountant's affair with his step-daughter's friend aged 16, should not be counted against him when assessing the divorce settlement to his former wife, a judge ruled yesterday.

The affair was balanced out by the behaviour of the former wife who, during a visit to Cyprus after a course of treatment for alcoholism, committed adultery with two or three men at her hotel, Mr Justice Balcombe said.

The judge said that the wife, in the end, had filed for divorce, claiming that her husband's "besotted" behaviour with the teenage girl, who had since had his baby and now lived abroad with him, was too much to tolerate.

But, in June this year, the husband was granted a divorce decree because of his wife's adultery in Cyprus.

Originally the couple were neighbours in a wealthy stockbroker area of the south of England, he said. They were thrown together and married, after their respective first

husband and wife went off together.

The judgement in the Family Division of the High Court in London came after a two-week hearing in closed court over how much the wife should receive as a divorce settlement. The ruling was given in public because of legal points raised in the case, but the parties must not be identified.

Mr Justice Balcombe ruled that the husband, aged 45, who has assets of around £250,000, must pay £37,500 to his former wife, aged 47, who has assets of some £80,000. He had estimated the cost of her "reasonable needs" in the future at £50,000 and had cut them by 25 per cent, because the marriage had lasted only four years and because the husband had paid £3,000 off one of her debts.

Under recently introduced divorce laws, courts have to take into account the behaviour of the parties when assessing terms of settlement after divorce.

Lord Emslie, Lord President, who presided with Lord Cameron and Lord Grieve, said that Colonel Dunbar had failed to persuade him that he became the heir male on or after 1968.

Sir Jean was the eldest son and heir of the 12th baronet, Sir Adrian Dunbar. He succeeded Sir Richard, the colonel's half-brother, who was baronet for only two days before he died.

The destination of the title was such that the only person who could answer the description of the heir male of the first baronet was, and must be, the heir male of the last holder of the title. This was the essential feature, designed to secure a continuous and predestined line of succession by descent.

Colonel Dunbar could not have become the heir male in 1968. He was not the heir male of his father, and in 1953 he was not the heir male of his half-brother, the 11th baronet, whose heir male was Sir Adrian. If his half-brother had had no heir male in 1953, the title would have become extinct.

Lord Grieve, who agreed that the appeal should be rejected, said that for Colonel Dunbar to succeed in his claim, he had to find some provision in the Legitimisation (Scotland) Act, 1968, which deemed him to have been legitimate since his birth.

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Close harmony: Police officers and miners' pickets singing Christmas carols early yesterday at Whitmoor mine in the Selby coalfield, North Yorkshire. The miners, in fancy dress, exchanged their caps for policemen's helmets after they invited about 20 officers to join in. One policeman said: "It was a nice gesture".

Jailed sex offender hired by playgroup

A man with convictions for sexual offences against children was employed as a voluntary helper at two playgroups after his release from jail, Knightsbridge Crown Court was told yesterday. Six weeks later he sexually assaulted a girl aged four in the lavatory.

Judge Pownall was told that Dennis Parsons, aged 40, would not have been taken on if Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council's social services department had made a routine check with Scotland Yard's juvenile bureau.

Parsons, who was jailed for six years for indecent assault and gross indecency, told the co-ordinator of Long ridge Road - under five resource centre in Earts Court, West London - that he wanted a worthwhile job.

Miss Kim Salariya for the prosecution, said: "When the play centre checked with the social services they were informed that nothing detrimental was known about the defendant."

The co-ordinator, Miss Miranda Boylan, said: "This case is a drop-in centre, which means children remain the responsibility of their parents. Since the assault we have reviewed our procedures for taking volunteers."

Parsons also worked at the Warwick playgroup. Both groups are run by the Westway nursery association.

Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, will underline the duty of probation officers to prevent child sex offenders having contact with children.

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, said yesterday that guidance issued in 1963 made it clear that officers should disclose relevant character and personality details when recommending ex-offenders for employment. That would be emphasized for sex offenders.

Miss Salariya told the court that the assaulted girl "told her mother she had played doctors and nurses with the defendant many times".

In 1978, Parsons was jailed for six months, suspended for two years, for indecently assaulting a girl aged three. In 1980, he was jailed for three years for six indecent assaults. 24 offences were taken into consideration. In 1982, he was convicted of indecently assaulting a girl aged 11 and in 1983 he was jailed for 18 months for indecently assaulting a child aged five.

Mr Edward Cross, for the defence, said that Parsons, who lived at Princess Beatrice House, Finborough Road, Kensington, South-west London, hoped to do voluntary work with old people after his release.

Laws on food safety to be improved

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Wide-ranging powers to control the safety and quality of food, bringing existing legislation up to date with new products, distribution methods and eating habits, are proposed in a government consultative document.

It runs to 99 pages, and the Government is seeking comments from all sections of the industry and from consumer groups before deciding whether it will suffice to amend the present Act or whether a new, comprehensive Act is needed.

Many of the present provisions have their origin in Nineteenth-century legislation, it points out. There has been little movement in the past 50 years, while technological developments in food manufacture and changes in distribution patterns have led to the wider use of food additives and the increasing complexity of modern manufactured food.

This in turn has added to the already complicated task of enforcement authorities and public analysts, the document says. The role of the retailer in the preparation and packaging of food has also diminished with the growth of prepacked foods, with implications for consumer protection and enforcement.

The document proposes that local authority inspectors should be empowered to seize and condemn a batch of food where it can be shown that a portion of it is likely to be unfit but cannot be easily identified. The cost of destruction of condemned food should be met by the owners.

Local authorities would be given a specific duty to inspect food businesses and would be able to apply for closure orders, including emergency orders, after a conviction for any offence under food hygiene regulations.

Ministers would be empowered to make regulations requiring manufacturers of certain classes of food to submit details for evaluation by expert committees of their safety and nutritional value. They would also be able to prohibit or restrict the marketing of such foods.

The document points to a loophole in the law on slaughtering hygiene, in that it does not cover birds or animals slaughtered on retailers' premises.

In an obvious reference to the sale of "green cap" unpasteurized milk, the document observes that milk is largely exempt from legislation covering other foodstuffs, and it suggests that there should be a "thorough debate" on the extent to which milk legislation should be brought within the general provisions of the food Acts.

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Dentist is jailed for indecent assaults

A Birmingham dentist was yesterday jailed for six months for indecently assaulting two women patients. Christopher Lock, aged 38, of the Old Rectory, Wishaw, near Birmingham, had denied the charges.

The jury at Birmingham Crown Court took three hours to return a unanimous verdict and Judge Ross sentenced Lock to 12 months jail with a direction that he serve only half the term.

Lock indecently assaulted Mrs Teresa Masterson, aged 25, in April 1981 and Miss Tracy Rainsford, aged 21, at his surgery in Gravelly Hill North, Birmingham, in October 1983.

The judge told Lock: "You plainly fell prey to suppressed psychological forces which are unknown to most normal men. To that extent you are to be pitied. You have given way to those forces and in so doing you have grossly betrayed the trust of your patients and the ethics of your profession."

Mr Bernard Hargrove, QC, for the defence, said: "After 20 years of study and practice as a dentist, his name will now inevitably be erased from the register and he will never practice again. That alone is an enormous punishment on himself and his family."

Ice rink hope at caravan site

Details of a proposed development costing between £15 million and £20 million by Arab Investments, based in London, of the Bramwell Fold caravan site in Windermere, Cumbria, were disclosed yesterday.

The scheme designed by Mr Jack Jones, of Carlisle, would include a leisure centre with ice rink, swimming pool and squash courts, a 1,200-seat conference hall, a 139-room marina; and room for about 1,000 guests and cars.

Four on turkey damage charge

Four people appeared before Grimsby magistrates yesterday accused of intending by destroying or damaging a frozen turkey to endanger life. They are also accused of stealing a thermomiser.

Glen Elliott, aged 19, and Kenneth Coubeck, aged 25, both of Grimsby, were remanded in custody for a week. A girl, aged 14, was granted bail by a judge in chambers and a second girl, aged 15, was remanded in care.

Clydeside rebel honoured

The Red flag flew over Glasgow City Chambers yesterday when the Freedom of the City was conferred on Harry McShane, aged 73, the last of the Clydeside rebels who staged rent strikes and workers' protests during the 1920s.

There was no royal toast at the lunch and at the close of the ceremony instead of the National Anthem councilors and their guests sang "I belong to Glasgow".

Jenkins operation

Mr Roy Jenkins, MP, aged 64, former leader of the SDP, had a prostate operation in the Royal Free Hospital in London yesterday. A statement from his office said he would resume his normal duties after convalescing.

Racing request

Horse-racing could return to Lanark, Strathclyde, after an absence of five years. Clydesdale District Council will decide early in the new year on an application to stage one meeting at the course.

Electronic jobs

The Japanese electronics company Tabuchi, which makes components for microwave ovens and video recorders, is to set up a factory and create 150 jobs in the new year in Thornaby-on-Tees, Cleveland, where unemployment is 21 per cent.

Falklands trip

Twelve young people from Hertfordshire are to go on a £15,000 adventure expedition to the Falkland Islands at the end of January as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Medal Award scheme.

Schoolgirl mother's warning

Miss Caroline Hughes, now aged 17, was a fifth former at a Liverpool school when she became pregnant two years ago. Looking back she remembers it as "the worst time in my life".

She took her baby daughter to school with her when she sat her CSE examinations, and later to college, where she trained as a hairdresser.

Miss Hughes predicts many more girls will become teenage mothers as a result of Thursday's Court of Appeal ruling that prevents under-age girls from obtaining contraceptives or advice on contraception from doctors without consulting their parents.

"I can think of a number of girls who will almost certainly

Gillick and the pill

become pregnant as a direct result of this decision," she said. "Many girls will just take the risk and not use any contraceptives until they reach 16, rather than have to approach their parents."

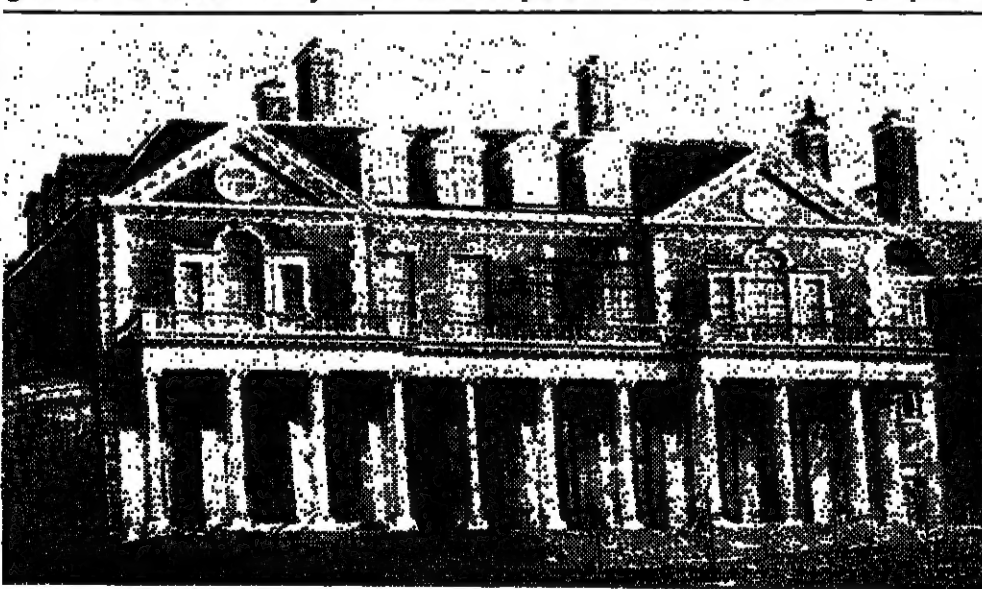
Miss Hughes said she was too shy to approach her own family doctor when she was younger. "I used to go and see him, meaning to discuss contraceptives, but I would lose courage and just go away with antibiotics."

She emphasized that if she known about family planning advisory centres, she would have asked them for counselling on contraceptives. She now takes her younger friends to these centres to prevent them

from ending up in her situation. But she fears these girls will be discouraged from seeking advice, because they can no longer rely on their staff to keep their treatment confidential.

"However good your relationship is, with your mother and father, your sexual life is too personal to discuss with them," she said. Since she has had the baby, her parents have been increasingly supportive, but when she was pregnant she shrank from asking them for help.

With her baby, Heather, crying in the background, Miss Hughes said she became pregnant by her 17-year-old boyfriend.



Grand Sale: Witanhurst, a 60-room neo-Palladian mansion on Highgate West Hill, (above), after Buckingham Palace, one of London's largest houses, which has been sold for £7 million in a private deal. (Our Property Correspondent writes). In addition, a scheme for 24 houses to be built on the slopes of the hill, the subject of a 15-year planning battle, is to be sold for more than £7 million. It is believed that the deals are the largest recorded for the area. Noble Investment Corporation, Witanhurst's Arab owners refused to confirm the deal, but they have withdrawn an appeal relating to an earlier application to build 63 houses. (Photograph: John Voos).

Investment setback for cable television

By David Hewson

Britain's cable television industry, which was launched amid hopes of a boom in new television media, are now being investigated by the Information Technology Advisory Panel which advises the Prime Minister.

Windsor Television is one of 11 companies given franchises to install new high-technology cable networks, but, like other cable operators, it has been badly affected by the decision to phase out capital allowances in the last Budget.

The problems of the cable

industry, which was launched amid hopes of a boom in new television media, are now being investigated by the Information Technology Advisory Panel which advises the Prime Minister.

Windsor's decision to shelve a decision on whether to spend £35 million to cable its area can only increase the mood of despondency among most cable operators.

A company letter to shareholders says: "We consider that in the interest of the community we should not start building our

cable network until we're sure of going through to completion."

Windsor's backers, which include Currys, GEC, and Standard Life Assurance, will provide funds to keep the company in existence until a firm decision is made.

Mr Michael Davis, Windsor's managing director, said: "We have been on hold since shortly after the Government's decision to phase out capital allowances. Cable television and its interactive services system is a long-

term investment and the Government's decision has made it very difficult for independent operators."

He was confident that Windsor would eventually go ahead with the cabling when the economic position was right.

The company was among the most advanced of the new franchises, and had signed an agreement with Mercury Communications to provide a telephone network service competing with British Telecom.

Implications of Ustinov's death

Arms talks stance may shift

From Richard Owen
Moscow

The death of Marshal Dmitry Ustinov raises key questions about Soviet arms control policy on the eve of next month's Geneva talks on the resumption of East-West arms talks. The talks will be between Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister and Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State.

Marshal Ustinov is believed to have been involved in disagreements in the Kremlin in September over arms reductions, and in the fall of Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the Chief of Staff and Marshal Ustinov's deputy.

Since the fall of Marshal Ogarkov three months ago there has been growing speculation over Marshal Ustinov's successor, with arguments for and against a military rather than civilian Minister of Defence.

Marshal Ustinov was a civilian rather than a professional soldier, having served as Stalin's munitions and Armaments Minister during the Second World War. He was seen as primarily a party man before donning marshal's uniform to take over the Defence Ministry. On the other hand, his predecessors, Marshal Gerasimov, Marshal Zhukov and Marshal Malinovsky, were all professional military men.

A military professional brings quite a different perspective to the questions of arms control and East-West relations, said a Kremlin watcher. "A soldier tends to think first of all in terms of hard-won military equipment and budgets rather than in terms of political compromise."

When Marshal Ustinov failed to appear for the military parade marking the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution on November 7 his place was taken by one of his three deputies, Marshal Sergei Sokolov, a professional soldier. The two other deputy defence ministers, Marshal Viktor Kulikov, commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Pact forces and Marshal Sergei Akhromyev, Marshal Ogarkov's successor as Chief of Staff, are both professional army officers.

Putting a soldier in the Ministry of Defence again would be a clear signal to Washington that Moscow has the interests of the armed forces uppermost in mind.

On the other hand, there is a limited number of civilian candidates for the post. Mr Grigory Romanov, the 61-year-old Politburo member and Central Committee secretary in charge of defence industries, is

● The 35th round of the world chess championship scheduled for yesterday was postponed until next Wednesday for "technical reasons".

The referee, the Yugoslav grandmaster Svetozar Gligoric, said the next game between Anatoly Karpov and Gary Kasparov would not be played either yesterday or next Monday because the Hall of Columns in Trade Union House here would be "occupied".

The Hall of Columns is used for the lying in state of deceased dignitaries.

● Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told Reuters yesterday that Marshal Ustinov had died on Thursday night. "We heard about it first thing this morning," he said.

When asked if Mr Gorbachev had known the news before leaving for Scotland yesterday he said: "He knew before he came to Edinburgh but decided to depart for Edinburgh as planned."

● It was thought likely last night that Sir Iain Sutherland, British Ambassador in Moscow, would represent the Government at Marshal Ustinov's funeral.

an obvious choice for the leadership, and until he was brought to Moscow by Andropov last year, had spent most of his career in Leningrad rather than the Soviet capital, where the nerve-centre of the military-industrial complex is situated.

Leningrad is an important naval and industrial base, but has not traditionally proved an effective launching-pad for political power. Mr Romanov is also a man of small stature, a matter of no small importance to Soviet army and navy professionals, who expect their minister to have a commanding presence, as Marshal Ustinov undoubtedly had.

There is also the question of who the armed forces might back in a struggle to succeed President Chernenko - Mr Gorbachev or Mr Romanov. The death of Marshal Ustinov has removed yet another member of the Stalin generation from the Politburo, thus helping to shift the internal balance of power in the leadership.

The Defence Industries Minister is Mr Pavel Fominov, who was appointed in 1979, but is a little known figure and not a leading party member.

Marshal Ustinov, by contrast, had been Defence Minister for eight years, and had held high office for over 40 years altogether. An associate of

Brezhev, Marshal Ustinov had lately adopted the role of Kingmaker formerly assumed by Mikhail Suslov, the eminence grise of the Politburo, playing a key part in the election of Andropov after Brezhnev's death in 1982.

It was Marshal Ustinov who guaranteed armed forces support for Andropov and subsequently, in February this year, for Mr Chernenko. Marshal Ustinov, President Chernenko and Mr Gromyko combined the Defence Ministry, the party leadership and the Foreign Ministry in a hardline triumvirate which has only recently begun to crack a rapprochement with the West largely through the efforts of President Chernenko, supported by Detente-minded younger Politburo members such as Mr Gorbachev.

Marshal Ustinov is credited with having thoroughly modernized Soviet military strategy, forcing generals to think in terms of a future war rather than re-playing the Second World War.

He also helped to develop Russia's military programme in space, and has been behind Moscow's alarm over American space-weapons testing. Politically, Marshal Ustinov maintained a granite-hard line against concessions to the West, sharing these latter times to match the United States' weapon for weapon and vowing to retaliate overwhelmingly against any use of nuclear weapons by Western powers.

He threatened to hit American territory directly if Russia were attacked by American missiles based in Europe, including cruise and Pershing 2.

Most analysts agree that, although he was a civilian by origin, he became so used to wearing a marshal's uniform that he was the champion of the military in the Politburo as much, if not more than, the

But Marshal Ustinov then failed to appear for the November 2 parade with his Marshal Sokolov, attacking the salute instead, and although messages signed in his name have appeared in *Red Star* and *Pravda*, few doubted that he had succumbed to illnesses which have plagued him for years, including, according to Moscow sources, cancer of the liver.

Ustinov became Stalin's Minister (commissar) for Armaments in 1941 when he was only 33, having previously worked as an industrial manager. He did not enter the Politburo until the age of 67.

Obituary, page 10



Marshal Ogarkov: "Bonapartist" ambitions

Gorbachov hails links with Britain

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

Mr Gorbachov said before leaving Edinburgh last night that the talks the delegation had held with Mrs Thatcher, members of the British Government and with political and business communities had been businesslike and friendly.

They had undoubtedly been useful, he said. The Russians left deeply convinced that a good beginning had been made to the continuation of the political dialogue between the two countries.

He added: "The Soviet delegation is leaving convinced

that the same point of view is shared by the British side as well. We believe that in the complex tense situation in the world it is especially important to show goodwill, common sense and a strong sense of responsibility to realize that an arms race cannot and is incapable of ensuring security of any state.

The most important thing is to build relations among states with different social and political systems on the basis of equality and with due account of the differences between them.

This is the position of the Soviet Union."

Mr Gorbachov thanked Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, for receiving them. On behalf of the delegation he extended "best wishes of peace and prosperity to the people of Great Britain."

He added a word of thanks beyond the formal statement to the British press for what he described as their objective coverage of the visit and the meetings and discussions that had taken place. That had been an important contribution to

the mutual understanding which was extremely important if they wanted to develop relations further.

Mr Younger said on behalf of the British Government that Mr Gorbachov's visit had been greatly appreciated. "We consider that it has been a very great success."

"We are sure this can be developed in the years ahead with the greatest of good will. While frank exchanges on our differences are valuable, there is much common ground."

Leading article, page 9

Zia proclaims poll death blow to foes

From Our Correspondent, Islamabad

General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, said in a radio and television broadcast yesterday that Wednesday's referendum "dealt a death blow" to his opponents and all those cherishing alien ideologies in the country.

The Election Commission announced yesterday that General Zia was elected President by 97.71 per cent of the votes cast. It said that 60.7 per cent of an electorate of about 35 million turned out to vote, with only 316,918 votes cast against the general.

However, the referendum results have been challenged by the 11-party opposition alliance, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, which had urged the electorate to boycott the referendum.

In a 45-minute broadcast, President Zia paid tribute to those who helped him to win the referendum and so help him to pursue his Islamization programme during his new five-year term.

However, he did not spell out his actual political programme, nor did he give a date for the

promised parliamentary elections. All he would say was that he would make an announcement after consultations with the opposition.

President Zia made an oblique reference to the need for political reconciliation in the country.

In conclusion the President announced a remission of sentence ranging from one to twelve months for convicted criminals. It is believed that the gesture will not be extended to prisoners serving sentences for anti-state and anti-regime offences.

Substitute frees Briton in Libya

Mr Malcolm Pike, who has been detained in Libya for 10 months, has been freed by the Libyan government.

Mr Pike, who was held in the town of Sirte, was released after the Libyan government agreed to his release.

Mr Pike's release was announced by the British Foreign Office.



Signs of discord: Banner-waving protesters demonstrating against the Sino-British agreement on Hong Kong outside the press-conference called by Mrs Thatcher to reassure the people of the colony that their opinions on the future constitution will be widely canvassed by Peking.

Red faces in Hong Kong

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

British officials are embarrassed by a remark made here yesterday by Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

The Prime Minister told a press conference that she would be "astonished" if Sir Edward Youde, the Governor of Hong Kong, were not given a place on the joint liaison group, which is to monitor progress on the new Sino-British agreement, on the territory's future. However, the composition of the Chinese and British delegations has not been officially announced, and it is

considered unlikely here that Sir Edward will be appointed to the group.

Each country is expected to nominate five officials. The group will sit part of the time in Hong Kong and at other times in London and Peking.

It is feared that it may be used by China to interfere in Hong Kong's affairs before the sovereignty returns to China in 1997.

Mrs Thatcher said the Chinese leaders had assured her they would solicit the opinion

of the Hong Kong people on a wide basis.

She fielded several hostile questions from local journalists at the press conference before she left for the United States to see President Reagan, she said. Britain would have been "negligent" if it had not entered into the negotiations with China.

China wanted the lifestyle of Hong Kong to continue under the agreement, she said. She felt that the "overwhelming majority" of people in the territory were in favour

Thatcher's punishing world trip

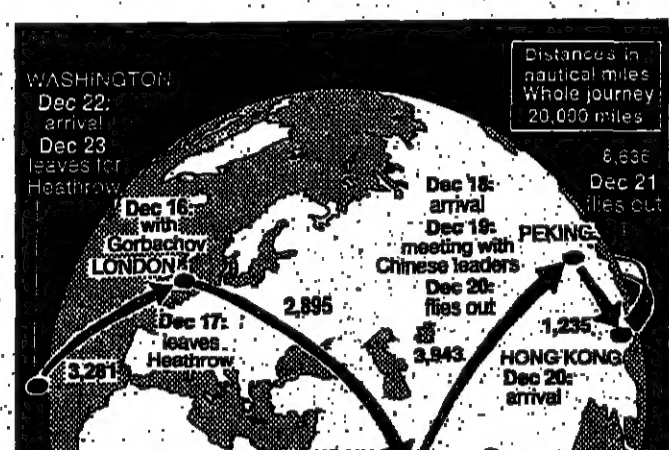
Taking a schedule that would tighten most youthful travellers, Mrs Margaret Thatcher is managing to talk to several of the world's most powerful men on her eight-day pre-Christmas itinerary which epitomises the world.

Sunday Dec 16
12.30 Great Mr Gorbachev at Chequers
13.30 lunch
15.00 Meeting with Gorbachev
18.30 Return to Downing Street

Monday Dec 17
9.30 Meeting with Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to United States
17.00 Leaves Heathrow for Beijing

Tuesday Dec 18
Fueled stop at Bahrain
15.20 (Peking time) arrives in Peking

Wednesday Dec 19
9.10 Welcome at the Great Hall of the People by Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang with Chinese leaders
11.00 Lunch with President Li Xianlan, talks with His Yao Bang



Thursday, December 21
08.00 Press conference (08.00)
Leaves for US
Saturday, December 22 (scheduled)
22.00 (Washington time) Arrives at Andrews Air Force base, 09.00
Breakfast with Vice-President George Bush, helicopter flight to Camp David for lunch and talks with President Reagan, 14.10
Press conference at Andrews Air Force base, 15.00
Leaves for UK
Sunday, December 23
02.53 (GMT) Arrives at Heathrow.

Two tankers hit as Iraq steps up Gulf attacks

A Liberian tanker was abandoned by its crew in the Gulf yesterday after being attacked 31 miles south of the Iranian oil terminal at Kharg Island.

Lloyds shipping service announced in London (Reuters reports).

Two crew members of the 52,661-ton tanker Magnolia were killed in the attack, the report said.

Iraq claimed that its planes hit "two large naval targets" in the Gulf yesterday.

The Norwegian supertanker Thorshavet, laden with 230,000 tonnes of Iranian oil, was abandoned by its crew after an Iraqi missile attack, shipping sources said.

The attack brought to 48 the

New party launched in Brazil

Ex-Nazi waits

New York (Reuters) - A former Nazi guard at Treblinka death camp is in custody here awaiting deportation.

Eyodor Fedorenko, a 77-year-old retired factory worker, would be the first war crimes suspect to be deported by the US to the Soviet Union.

Agca plea

Rome (Reuters) - Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk serving a life term for shooting the Pope, has asked Italy to grant him pardon. In an interview published here, he said: "I have behind me not only terrorism but every idea of violence."

Coat-tails exit

Marburg, West Germany (AP) - A 25-year-old East German escaped to the West hidden under the coats of about 50 pupils returning here from a bug trip.

Happy answer

Geneva - Swiss French-language television has had a last-minute change of mind about showing the erotic film *Emmanuelle* at 2am on New Year's Day. Instead it will screen *The Sound of Happiness*.

Five jailed

Paris (AFP) - Five Armenians charged with aiding and abetting the bombing in July last year at Orly Airport that killed eight people were jailed for terms ranging from 30 months to four years. A sixth was acquitted.

Calling the tune

Jakarta (Reuters) - Mass-bombing will be banned in the Indonesian capital if it leads to breaches of the peace. The decision follows a disturbance at an amusement park last week when police fired tear gas to break up a contest.

Wrong spirit

Washington (AP) - Experts who detonated a mysterious package delivered to the Washington naval yard discovered that they had blown the two bottles of finest Russian vodka, a gift from a Soviet admiral. "Good stuff too," said Vice-Admiral James Lyons, for whom the spirits were intended.

Levesque moves four in another Quebec shuffle

Ottawa - The Premier of Quebec, Robert Levesque, has reshuffled his Cabinet for the fourth time in as many months while continuing to prepare for a crucial convention of his ruling party Parti Quebecois next month (John Best writes).

Back-benchers have been appointed to four newly-created portfolios and the responsibilities have been switched.

Mr Francois Grenon, the Regional Development Minister, becomes Minister of Education, replacing Mr Yves Brouillette.

Seven Ministers resigned last month in the upheaval after Mr Levesque's decision to abandon for the time being the party's goal of Quebec independence.

Surprise release of religious leader in Sudan

By Carol Berger

The recognized leader of the largest religious group in northern Sudan has been released after 15 months' detention.

Mr Sadij El Mahdi, leader of the Ansar Muslim sect or "Mahdists", was released from Khartoum political prison with 14 supporters on Tuesday. All had been held without charge under the State Security Act since September 1983.

They were detained after public criticism by El Mahdi of the imposition of Islamic or Sharia law by President Nimeiri. Since then more than 44 amputations have been carried out, 16 of them involving the surgical amputation of a hand and a foot.

Both sides rest case in Sharon libel hearing

New York (Reuters) - A lawyer defending *Time* magazine against a \$50 million (£31 million) libel suit brought by the former Israeli Defence Minister, Mr Ariel Sharon, rested his case yesterday without calling a single witness.

"We think we are ahead," Mr Paul Saunders said on the 20th day of the hearing. Earlier, the judge rejected his request for outright dismissal.

The move caught Mr Sharon's lawyer, Mr Milton Gould,

by surprise and after lunch break he rested his case, saying he also was confident of winning. Judge Abraham Sofaer adjourned the trial to January 2, reserving the right to recall Mr Sharon to the stand.

The former general says a paragraph in a *Time* report libelled him by claiming he instigated the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians by pro-Israeli Phalangists in Beirut in 1982.

The paragraph which *Time*

men were indirectly responsible for the massacre.

● JERUSALEM: Mr Sharon said that if he won the case he would use the money for a fund to fight "blood libels" against Jews or Israel anywhere in the world (Christopher Walker writes).

Speaking on his return to Tel Aviv after more than five weeks at the trial, he also pledged to meet all the expenses of the case, which would not cost the exchequer a single shekel.

PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 21 1984

Chalker defends campaign

COMMONS

There was only one way to drive not just in the festive season but throughout the year, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, said in reply to a debate in the Commons on drinking and driving at Christmas. Her message to drivers was "By all means have a good time, but do not get on to a motor cycle or behind the wheel of a car. Go home safely by public transport, by somebody else who does not take alcohol driving, or, if you cannot get there by either of these two means, by using your own feet."

The actual incidence of drinking and driving was not appreciably higher at Christmas time than at other times of the year. The threat posed by a drinking driver at any time of the day or night or at any time of the year was something that policies had got to take account of.

The last thing that would be right would be for the drink and drive campaign to become just part of the maddest background to the festive season. It was not enough just to go through the motions of condemning drinking and driving and leave it at that.

It was necessary to be ready to search for new approaches which persuaded people to think ahead about what drinking and driving involved and made them conscious

that they should never put the two together.

She could not accept that this year's campaign lacked punch. It was important that what was said in the campaign was consistent with what was said by the law which did not involve a total prohibition on alcohol for drivers. A stark instruction never to drink and drive would be just the sort of message that this year's target audience of young first time drivers would dismiss as unreasonable and unrealistic.

Mr Keith Bates (Ynys Mon, C), who initiated the debate, said some 1,200 people died every year in road accidents where drinking was a contributory factor. One third of drivers of cars and motor cycles who were killed had alcohol levels above the prescribed limit. Between 10pm and 4am that proportion was raised to 40 per cent.

There had been much controversy over the Department of Transport's campaign against drink-driving being described as the "stay low" campaign. It was important that it be stated clearly in the House that in order to be fully safe a person must not drink at all and drive. That had got to be the message.

The legal limit was 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood, at 30 milligrams per 100 millilitres driving was impaired, and that was below the legal limit. At that level a person was three times more likely to have an

accident than if he had had no alcohol whatsoever.

He was concerned about people being misled about the effects of products which it was claimed could reduce blood-alcohol levels. He referred to the canned soft drink Alcahey distributed by Five Swallows of Standed, Essex which he said, was described as necessary for all those occasions when a person had consumed more alcohol than they intended.

The distributors expected to sell 400,000 cans of Alcahey before Christmas and next year some four million cans in Britain. It was naive in the extreme to assume people would not use Alcahey in the belief that they would be safe to drive after drinking.

He understood the DHSS was looking carefully at this product to see whether it should be referred under the Medicines Act.

There seems (he said) to be no doubt whatsoever in the mind of the Department of Transport that no substance can actually artificially reduce blood-alcohol levels.

There was much more the Government could do in the form of educating people on the problems of drinking and driving and its effects.

Ultimately (he said) we need to change attitudes in this country. We need to ensure there is moral condemnation of the concept of drinking and driving.

Mr Renton, who was replying, said: "I am happy to tell you that our consulate believes that Mr Pike's difficulties are gradually being resolved."

"Indeed I have just been passed a note that Mr Pike has now been able to leave Libya by arranging for a deputy to come and substitute for a while."

The announcement was immediately welcomed by Mr Baker who intervened to say: "The news you have given is very welcome indeed."

Mr Renton said the return of Mr Pike's passport was "welcome news for the Christmas holiday".

It was a dramatic moment in the Commons. Mr Nicholas Baker, Conservative MP for Devon North, made a plea for government action on behalf of Mr Pike, his constituent, who has been held responsible under Libyan law for the alleged tax liability of his employers, Loman Engineering.

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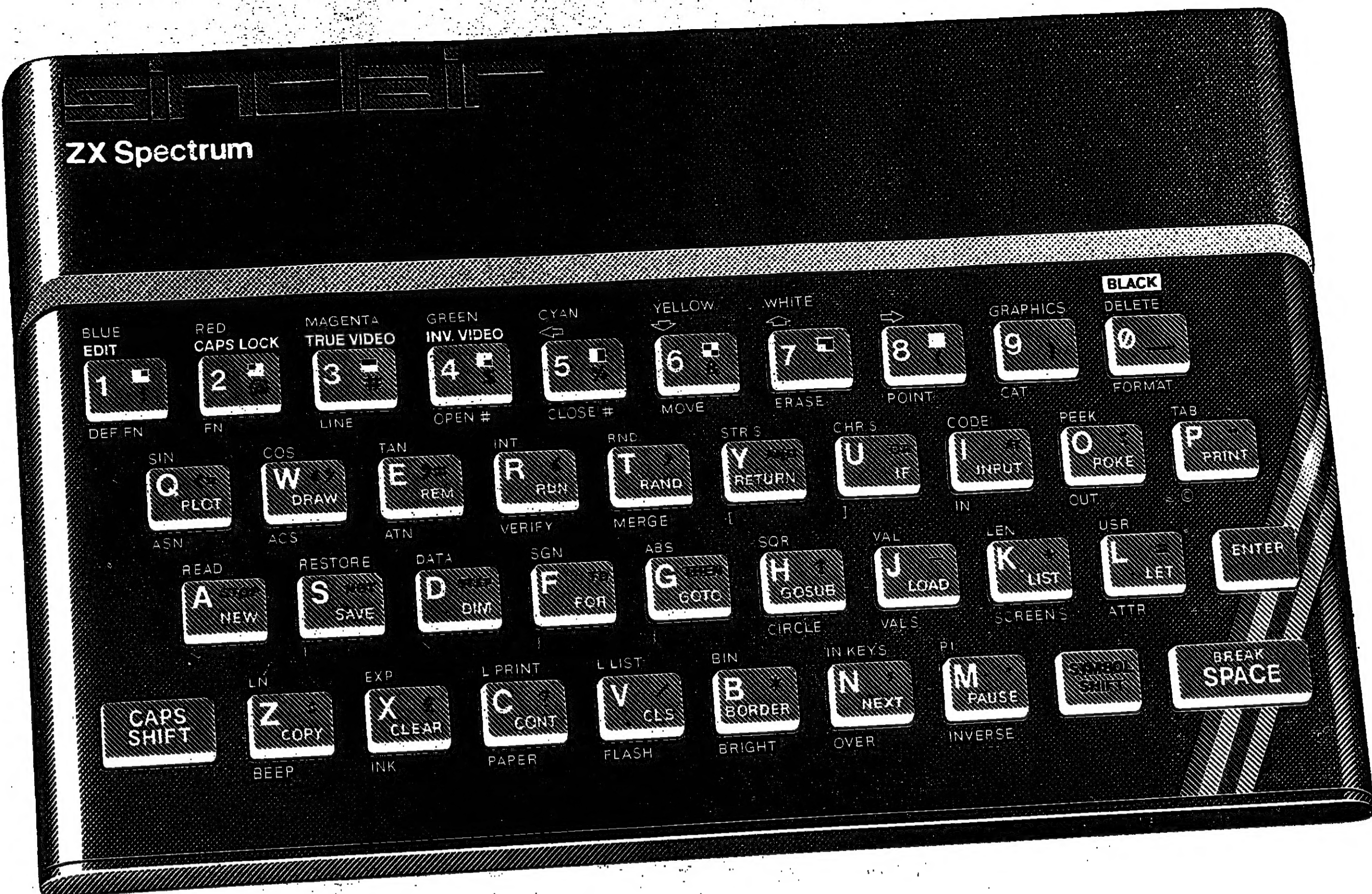
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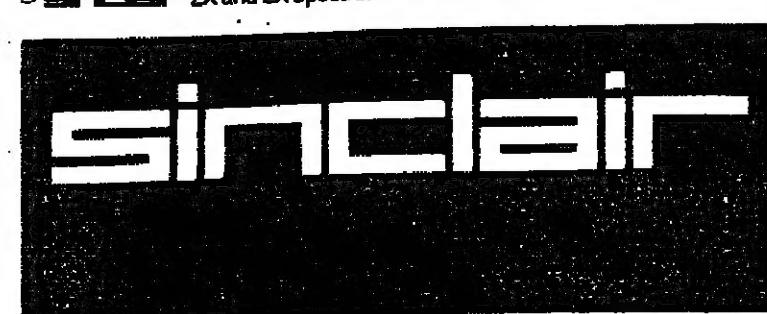
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THE ARTS

Flavour survives in the old panto recipe

Christmas shows bring the traditional

heroes, heroines, villains and dames.

This year the productions include

some updated versions but the

time-honoured formula is still the favourite

Like the débütante's laugh in the epigram, most conventional panto-mimes are "too late, my love, too late and far too long". But now that the old formula is threatened by enterprising variations such as *The Wic of the Young Vic's* country-and-Western, I wonder how much longer we shall see television stars in suede jenkins and medieval robes trailing their mikes on stage to bowl some staple of the nightclub repertoire.

Wimbledon's *Cinderella* proves that with good performers, a crack production and enough visual glitter, it can still work. It has the incorrigible Bill Owen and Kathy Staff, Roger the Dog on wicked form, and Bonnie Langford at her most vital. It also boasts four miniature ponies to pull Cinderella's delicately wrought iron coach, and Alan Miller Bunford's costumes for the Ugly Sisters (appearing at one point as a zebra crossing and a bathroom) are worthy of Ulitz himself.

But, despite a gala premiére that had Princess Alexandra joining in the antiphonal sing-song, Richmond's Jack and the Beanstalk came to life only after the interval with Jimmy Edwards and his trombone at their Falstaffian best: an amicable greeting for the drop curtain, some musical swanking ("not just tadpoles on wires to me"), three whooping solos and a glance down the bell in search of Ronnie Corbett. I also liked Joan Sims's beaming Vegetable Fairy and Keith Barron as the giant's villain, unashamedly played as Richard III (and how he hated Richmond).

But Kenneth Connor's dear little Twankeyish dame is hampered by poor jokes, Susan Maughan kept hauling herself into the top notes, and despite a smashing Cyril Fletcher imitation Peter Goodwright's win-

some Simple Simon is no match for Paul Nicholas's obsequiously outgoing Buttons at Wimbledon.

The Players Theatre, of course, survives all changing fashions and this year's Victorian pantomime, *Princess and the Pea*, is always a few "joys" and carols, is done with the usual wit and relish. Planché's *Puss in Boots* (1837) is a highly professional extravaganza of smoothly turned couplets, cat-astrophic puns and catchy travesties of opera. Sadly, no encores: I would have loved a second helping of the "ladies-in-waiting" (Alexandra Sebastian, Wendy Jones and Loraine Hart), or John Orchard's Irish ogle singing a cannibalistic burlesque of "O ruddier than the cherry".

But Puss himself (himself?) stole the show. Maureen Brathwaite, who completed the Guildhall School opera course only this summer, is a fiery black soprano with a lovely voice, securely handled, a natural way with dialogue and an infectious grin. She sailed through Blondchen's jubilant aria from *The Seraglio* with evident delight. What a Papagena she would make!

Sadly, this third season of the RSC Peter Pan is billed as the last, though with luck in a few years they may change their minds. I still find it a surprisingly spectacular and beautiful, but its refusal to shirk the connection with Barrie's real-life "lost boys" also makes it unbearably moving. The twopenny is tactfully minimized, and casting a man to play Peter Pan (which made history) makes it less of a principal-boy panto than a virile adventure story.

Anthony Masters



Left: Wimbledon winners Paul Nicholas and Bonnie Langford. Right: Players Theatre show-stealer Maureen Brathwaite, as Puss, with Eleanor McCready, as Fairy Fatima

● Peter John makes his seasonal return to the Watford Palace Theatre as author and Dame in *Aladdin*, well dressed-up as ever on his day, with cab block bookings, and other local matters. This time his concern for audience contact has taken participation well over the limit. Not content with placing spectators on guard over a shelf of sweets, he flops them into action at every turning point of the

story before rounding them up for a washing-line song-sheet finale.

Even without these thunderous interruptions, the story is poorly told (Tizzy, a bungling Slave of the King, gets lumbered with the main magical tasks, while the lamp is uselessly confiscated by Twankey). The comic level is lamentable, and Old Peking is rendered through supermarkets and

the laundromat-TV joke (complete with Wogan portrait).

Bernard Cusshaw does better with the designs of the palace dungeon. Paddy Fletcher, a feeble thumb-biting Abanaza, doubles effectively as a clapped-out rival suitor for the Princess.

Irving Wardle

Dance

experience. His first London appearance was as second conductor of the Bolshoi Ballet in 1956, and it is a pleasure to welcome him back to Covent Garden for a detailed, well-shaped and lively account of the score.

The only real gem among the surviving dances was the *pas de deux* in Act II. Tradition had it that Ivanov's long-lost Snowflakes scene was equally good, but if Wright's interpretation of the old notation is valid, it has been overrated. Balanchine's *Nureyev's* and Lichine's modern reworkings were all more interesting.

Wright has tried to introduce a little drama around the mysterious Herr Drosselmeyer, but it looks not much different from other recent stagings. His on-stage choreographic coup is in suggesting a plausible explanation for a famous photograph of the first Sugar Plum Fairy standing on a scarf held by her partner - and pretty odd it looks, too, in grave and on stage. That apart, his production is sound, straightforward except for some tiresome obtrusive Christmas fairies, and unfortunately dull, as it could hardly avoid with this approach.

John Percival

The Nutcracker

Covent Garden

When last the Royal Ballet produced *The Nutcracker*, we remarked that they were establishing a tradition to do so every 17 years. What was meant as a joke has become a prophecy, for here, only a few weeks early, is their fourth interpretation of the ballet.

Peter Wright makes little attempt to burnish the choreography into new beauties, as Ashton did in 1951, nor to find a new logical drama matching the music, as Nureyev did in 1968. Instead, he tries to restore the original Russian version by Peppé and Ivanov on which Nicholas Sergeyev based the first Royal Ballet staging in 1934.

Given the generally unfavourable reception of that original 1892 production, reconstructing it seems rash. Other choreographies of that period might better repay historical research. But *Nutcracker* survives thanks to Tchaikovsky, and solely to him, so it was wise to secure a guest conductor of Gennady Rozhdestvensky's stature and ballet

sure but it looks good, and it fits the note of desperation in the music, which is certainly not underplayed in a tumultuous account of the score under Mark Elder. Partly, these things are so searing because they are so balletic, which is also what keeps them in tune with the score. When Mr Alden goes in for gore, severed heads and flesh-sodden chain saws, he begins rather to lose touch with Tchaikovsky. More importantly, his imagery becomes coarse and ludicrous. Even so, the cast comes out of the evening well. Malcolm Donnelly, as Mazepa, sings strongly and has the dictator's necessary qualities: commanding presence and the ability not to see what is happening. Janice Cairns and Felicity Palmer are excellent as the distraught women, never letting affliction spoil their singing, and rising superbly to the vocal and emotional challenge of the opera's dramatic numbers. There is also a wily Kochubei from Richard Van Allan.

Paul Griffiths

Opera

Tchaikovsky over the top

Mazeppa

Coliseum

The idea of the Norwest Holst series at the Coliseum is to present rare operas for just a single run of performances, which I suppose means picking works which people will want to see once but never again. From that point of view, *Rienzi* last year was an excellent choice. But *Mazeppa* this year is a different dish of potatoes. As far as I am aware, nobody has ever claimed it as a work of any historical importance; it is simply one of Tchaikovsky's other operas, showing to a remarkable degree his ability to write mediocre music when the spirit was not upon him.

Being characterless, though, is a dangerous deficiency for an opera at the hands of producers. The best productions thrive from that tension which exists between the story the producer wants to tell and the story the music is telling. Where the music is not saying anything very much, then directorial self-indulgence is liable to go over

the top, as it does in this staging of *Mazeppa* by David Alden. But I do not wholly join hands with those who delighted in booing so much of the proceedings. Mr Alden's basic intuition that *Mazeppa* is about brutality is on the ball, even if it could apply equally well to war-torn operas from *Fidelio* to *Wozzeck* (and has in his productions). With his designer David Fielding he gives the work an effectively stark environment in a white-walled room lit often by fluorescent strips: at different moments it might be a practice room in a theatre, a drill hall, a prison chamber, an operating theatre. The period is unsettled. There are some nineteenth-century clothes about, but there are also suits and Homburgs out of this company's *Rigoletto*, offering us *Mazeppa* as Stalin.

OK. Fine. The setting even allows for some splendid moments of theatre. For instance, the "Gopak" in the first act is danced by KGB agents and their catinames, running, sprawling and grappling with each other: quite why I am not

Divisional Court

Defendant's state of mind crucial for re-election

Regina v Birmingham Justices, Ex parte Hodgson and Another
Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McCullough
[Judgment delivered December 20]

Where justices were faced with an application to change his election by a defendant, who was charged with an offence triable either way and had elected mode of trial, the central factor to which they had to pay attention was the defendant's state of mind when he made his election.

A defendant was not lightly to be deprived of a right to trial by jury, so that, regardless of whether the summary trial was more appropriate of the particular offence charged, section 20(3) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 gave a defendant an absolute right to refuse to consent to such a trial.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in a reserved judgment allowing the application for certiorari of Paul Henry Hodgson and Keith Barry Wiseman, to quash the refusal of the Birmingham Justices on October 10, and November 7, 1983, to allow their application to withdraw their election of summary trial and to elect trial by jury and remitted the case for reconsideration by a fresh bench of justices.

Mr John Maxwell for the applicants, Mr Roger D. H. Smith for the justices.

MR JUSTICE MCCULLOUGH said that the applicants appeared, unrepresented, before the justices charged with theft of wood valued at £12. Believing they had no defence, they elected to be tried summarily and pleaded guilty.

application was refused with no reasons given.

A month later the legal adviser applied again on the basis that the original election was made by mistake and the court had recognized that fact by entering pleas of not guilty. The justices, having no reasons again, refused the application. It was to be inferred that the justices regarded the value of the wood as material.

His Lordship, having reviewed several decisions of the Divisional Court, said that *R v Highbury Corner Magistrates, Ex parte All* (unreported, May 22, 1984) and *R v Hemmingsway* (unreported, June 22, 1983) drew attention to the question whether the defendant properly understood the nature and significance of the choice which was put to him.

A most important factor in the mind of the defendant, when he was deciding which court he would like to deal with his case, was whether or not he believed he had any defence. In many cases the defendant might not know he had a defence until he had the benefit of legal advice.

That situation was not really distinct to that where the defendant had first instructed a solicitor after he had been put to his election.

If the defendant demonstrated that his original choice was exercised when he did not properly understand the nature and significance of the choice he was making, it was as if he had never made that choice.

In *R v Metropolitan Magistrate, Ex parte Zardin* (unreported, May 14, 1971) and *R v Lambeth Metropolitan Magistrate, Ex parte Wright* (The Times, April 29, 1974; [1974] Crim LR 444), where the refusal to grant the application was upheld, the defendants had pleaded guilty all along; it could be assumed they had an adequate understanding of the

choice before them when the election was put.

In *R v West Bromwich Justices, Ex parte Pearson* (unreported, June 3, 1981) it was significant that the justices, having been asked to refuse to make a second re-election, and the justices thought it right to deal with the defendant having already dealt with a co-defendant, see also *R v Canterbury Justices, Ex parte Farrance* (unreported, July 13, 1982).

His Lordship said that the broad justice of the situation in the case before him demanded that the applicants be allowed to re-elect, and no other conclusion was reasonable.

They had pleaded guilty under the misapprehension that they had no defence; they had elected summary trial in the belief they were not to be tried but merely sentenced, and only upon advice from their solicitor did the reality of their situation become apparent for the first time.

Even though they might have understood the choice which they were being asked to make, they clearly did not appreciate its significance for them. The facts were similar to those in *R v Highbury Corner Justices, Ex parte All*.

His Lordship added that the phrase "summary trial" in sections 19 and 20 of the 1980 Act clearly referred to the whole process of the summary trial and not to that part which followed the plea.

The reference to "trial by jury" in section 20 was misleading, and would be so especially to unrepresented defendants intending to plead guilty.

It would be better if the sections contrasted "summary trial" with references to the "magistrates' court" and to the "crown court", so that it was clear to the defendant that the choice lay between having his case as a whole dealt with in the crown court where if he pleaded not guilty he would be tried by a jury, and having it dealt with in the magistrates' court where if he pleaded not guilty he would be tried by the justices.

Lord Justice Robert Goff agreed.

Solicitors: Douglas-Mann & Co for George Jones & Co, Birmingham; Mr M. A. Walker, Birmingham.

Law Report December 22 1984

Understanding mode of trial necessary

Regina v Highbury Corner Metropolitan Magistrate, Ex parte Weekes
Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McCullough
[Judgment delivered December 20]

Where, at the time of electing his mode of trial, an unrepresented defendant aged 17 had not understood the nature of the election, his subsequent application to change his election should have been allowed. It was not relevant in determining whether such an application should be allowed that the defendant was considered himself capable of trying the case.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held, granting *Leroy Alan Weekes* judicial review by way of certiorari to quash a decision of the Highbury Corner Metropolitan Magistrate on February 17, 1984 to refuse his application to change his election of summary trial on charges of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and malicious wounding, but refusing to quash a decision of January 23, 1984 to put the defendant to his election on that day. The defendant had been arrested on January 21 and had appeared for the first time on January 23, unrepresented, having had no opportunity to apply for legal aid.

Mr Richard Drabble for the defendant, the justices did not appear and were not represented.

MR JUSTICE MCCULLOUGH said that this case was distinguishable from *R v Birmingham Justices, Ex parte Hodgson* (The Times, December 22, 1984) and *R v Highbury Corner Magistrates, Ex parte All* (unreported, May 22, 1984) in that there was no question that the defendant had not realized at the time of the election that he had a defence.

It was also distinguishable from *R v Lambeth Metropolitan Magistrate, Ex parte Wright* (The Times, April 29, 1974; [1974] Crim LR 444) and *R v Metropolitan Magistrate, Ex parte Zardin* (unreported, May 14, 1971), because in both those cases it was assumed that the defendant applying to change his election had fully understood the choices open to him when the election was put.

In the present case, having regard to the defendant's age and his uncontradicted assertion that he had not understood the choice he had been asked to make, the magistrate should have assumed on the second occasion that he had not made an informed choice on the first.

Accordingly the broad justice of the situation required that he be allowed to re-elect, and that was the only conclusion which the magistrate could reasonably have come to.

The magistrate's observation that the defendant's court could grapple with the difficulties in the case indicated that he had misunderstood the very limited use to which his own view as to the suitability of mode of trial could properly be put.

Although, in view of the defendant's age and the seriousness of the charges, it should have been clear to anyone who had thought about it that he would get legal aid and that his election would be more informed if it were put after he had had legal advice, his Lordship was loath to lay down as a principle that every unrepresented defendant of any particular age should in relation to serious charges never be put to his election on his first appearance, and he could not isolate any factor which would make this a special case.

It was one thing to say that justices should take account of the fact that the defendant did not understand the nature of the election when that was pointed out to them on an application to re-elect; it was another to say that they should presume for themselves when the election was put.

His Lordship was not persuaded that the decision to put the defendant to his election could be attacked successfully on *Wednesday* principles ([1948] 1 KB 223).

His Lordship would remit the case to a fresh bench of justices to reconsider the application to re-elect.

Lord Justice Robert Goff agreed.

Solicitors: Clifford Watts Compton & Co.

Justices can amend clerical slip in summons

Regina v Eastbourne Justices, Ex parte Kisten

Where a person had been required to attend court upon a summons which was defective because of a clerical error (it alleged an offence of giving a false alarm of fire contrary to section 30(2) of the Fire Services Act 1947 instead of contrary to section 31(1)) and he had subsequently pleaded guilty when the charge was put to him without reference to either section of the Act or the Act itself, the justices were entitled to amend the summons before the final disposal of the case.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held (Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McCullough) in a reserved judgment on December 14 dismissing an application for judicial review for certiorari to quash the decision of the Eastbourne Justices to amend the summons on January 23, 1984.

MR JUSTICE MCCULLOUGH said that there was no suggestion that the applicant was aware of the contradiction in the summons or had been misled when the information was read out to which he pleaded guilty; what was read out was what he had intended to plead guilty to, and it was not an offence against section 31(1).

The court adopted the approach of *Allan v Wiseman* ([1975] RTR 217). Further, there was nothing in rule 100 of the Magistrates' Courts Rules (SI 1981 No 552) or section 123 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 which suggested that a summons could not be amended after a plea or finding of guilt. Since the defect had arisen through clerical error and the applicant had not been misled, there was no injustice in allowing the amendment.

Correction

In *Gillick v West Norfolk and Wisbech Area Health Authority and Another* (The Times, December 21), Mr Patrick Fife should have been included in the list of counsel for the plaintiff.

Television
Lasting Latin rhythms

ARENA (BBC 2) asked the question: What's Cuba Playing? Then it stayed quite a long time for the answer - an answer which included the rumba, the cha cha cha and the conga. Those who have danced to these rhythms in Imperial Ballrooms all over the country might have been surprised to learn that such dances combine (to put it very roughly) the rhythms of Africa and the melodies of Europe. Like Cuban dance and even Cuban religion, this subtle commingling of sources has produced something quite rare and certainly distinctive.

And there can be no doubt about the vitality of the mixture - the rapid faces of the participants were proof enough of that. It may even survive socialism, even though everyone concerned seemed as if they were suggesting that this particular music can be seen as an emblem of "the revolution".

But since this Afro-European tradition can fairly be described as the national culture of Cuba,

no doubt it will be able to rise above the politics of the day - the musicians, some of whom have played in bands since the 1920s, had certainly mastered that trick.

Italians (BBC 2) reached its conclusion with *The Bride of Calabris* - she was not exactly an unwilling one but she was, shall we say, going to the altar with her eyes wide open. As she explained to the always unseen interviewer, "...there's nothing to do here". Everyone else seemed happy at the prospect, and the father had fatted a calf which "will feed 600 Christians" at the wedding reception.

Despite a few local variations this was a familiar story. One might not be very interested in the situation in England, and so it was hard to get excited about the fact that it was happening in Italy. It was all rather like a foreign version of *The Family*, except, of course, that the wedding cost £20,000.

Peter Ackroyd

Radio
Peake performances

Out of what amounts to prejudice I have never made any effort to read the work of Mervyn Peake. Other people's opinions and a cursory glance at something he had written convinced me that I was unlikely to enjoy the experience. Precious stuff, I thought, but not valuable - like an ultra-Gothic Ronald Firbank.

This, of course, puts me in a very shaky position to assess Brian Sibley's two Peake adaptations, *Titus Groan* (Radio 4, December 10) and *Gormenghast* (Radio 4, December 17), either as realizations of their author's intentions, or as versions likely to satisfy the small but no doubt aggressive band of Peake cultists.

What I can say without hesitation is that, true or not to true to their originals, these two productions under the direction of Glyn Dearman were both quite spell-binding and almost persuaded me that I ought to set aside the afore-mentioned prejudice.

Almost but perhaps not quite, for I look in enough with that cursory glance to register an exceedingly ornate prose style of a kind that still discourages me, whereas one of the pleasures of these two magnificent bits of radio was that, while incomparably rich and brooding and strange, they were also extraordinarily spare and economical.

I suspect that huge swathes of heavily encrusted prose had had to go and the effect of this was that the thread of the story itself stood out on sharp relief. And a very powerful, familiar and affecting story it is - how Steerpike, creeping upward from the infernal kitchens, attempts to overturn the fossilized world of Gormenghast and how in parallel *Titus Groan*, 7th Earl, tries to escape the net of ritual and asphyxiating tradition that is his inheritance.

Dearman's direction did full justice to these excellent scripts, although I suppose he had made his task that much easier by assembling a cast which must

surely have caused every other radio writer in the kingdom to open his eyes and gasp in sheer envy.

Would not all of us sound as good as Shakespeare with a cast like this: David Warner, Freddie Jones, Eleanor Bron, Judy Furlitt, Sheila Hancock, Bernard Hepton, Robert Easton, Maurice Denham, Michael Aldridge, Stratford Johns, Cyril Shaps, Jill Lidstone...

Well, no, we probably wouldn't. But they were all impeccable - full-blooded, inventive, bizarre, yet with that touch of solemnity and restraint essential to such elemental legends. Then, of course, there was rock star Sting cast as Steerpike and a bit of a director's gimmick, you might think. He stood apart certainly, but that was right for he was thinner, more metallic - a killer, a terrorist at large and unsuspected among a band of gaudy players.

Could there have been a greater contrast to this than BBC Radio Scotland's *Accidental Conversation* (Radio Scotland, December 18; director, James Runcie)? This short play had no author: it had been devised by the director and his cast (Eileen McCallum, Tamara Kennedy, Jonathan Waisan, Natasha Gerson). They scripted bits of it, the rest they improvised in studio.

This team conceived a simple but forth scheme: a widow and her three more or less grown children go off on a holiday to Iona, which she last visited with her husband, a naval man, not long before he died. The circumstances of the death never come to light but create a sense of unease as do the snippets of news heard on the family radio.

So in a bare 25 minutes, *Accidental Conversation* developed a penetrating sense of danger, both overt and subtle, and public of things unsaid and unsayable but by no means uncommunicable.

David Wade

Court of Appeal

Commissioners need not consider taxpayers' papers in his absence

Banin v Mackinlay (Inspector of Taxes)
Before Lord Justice Oliver, Lord Justice Purchas and Mr Justice Neill
[Judgment delivered December 13]

Special commissioners hearing an appeal against income tax assessments in the absence of a taxpayer were entitled to proceed and to determine the matter without referring to documents and written submissions that the taxpayer had lodged with them days before the hearing.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr Banin, from Mr Justice Harman's decision (7 The Times, February 16, 1984) who refused to interfere with the commissioners' determination of his liability to income tax from 1975 to 1982 inclusive.

Mr C. W. Koenigsberger for the taxpayer, Mr Robert Carnwath for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE OLIVER said that three days before the taxpayer's appeal was listed for hearing his accounts had been delivered to the commissioners, without further explanation, a bundle of documents described as pleadings and affidavits. The taxpayer, a manufacturing

jeweller and said to be inarticulate, refused to attend the hearing. The commissioners did not admit his statement or look at the documents and determined his liability to tax for the years under appeal.

Were they right to proceed to hear the matter without referring to the documents? Mr Justice Harman rejected the three arguments put by the taxpayer, namely (1) that the commissioners' refusal to look at the taxpayer's documents was contrary to natural justice; (2) that it was contrary to the provisions of section 50(5) of the Taxes Management Act 1970 (expressly empowering lawyers to plead before commissioners); and (3) that in any event the commissioners had a discretion as to whether they should look at the documents and that their failure to look at them was not a proper exercise of that discretion.

Mr Justice Harman's judgment was entirely right and could not be improved on. Section 50(5) confined the privilege of pleading in writing to lawyers and it was not extended to accountants or to litigants in person.

Lord Justice Purchas and Mr Justice Neill agreed.

Solicitors: Kean & Kean; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Proving affray offence

Attorney General's Reference (No 3 of 1983)

The Lord Chief Justice, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Mr Justice Boreham and Mr Justice Tudor Price on December 21, gave a reserved opinion on Attorney General's Reference (No 3 of 1983).

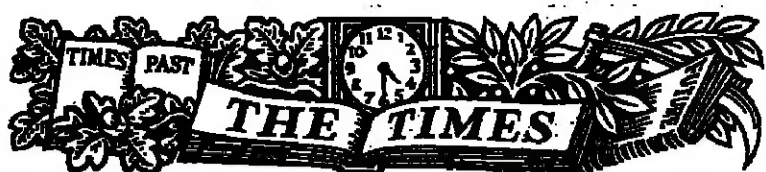
The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that, in order to establish the offence of affray in a public place, the Crown must establish:

(1) That there was unlawful fighting or unlawful violence used by one or more than one person against another or others, or there was an unlawful display of force by

one or more than one person without actual violence; and

(2) That the unlawful fighting, violence or display of force was such that a bystander of reasonable firmness and courage (whether or not present or likely to be present) might reasonably be expected to be terrified.

His Lordship added that it was unnecessary in the present opinion to discuss fighting in places which were not public. In all circumstances, so far as their Lordships were able to see, an innocent victim or intended victim of fighting or violence or an innocent participant in it might constitute such a "bystander".



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

AT THE HIGH TABLE

By any measurement of modern international statesmanship Mrs Thatcher's week has been spectacular. She started off with discussions with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, whom Moscow is encouraging the world to believe is the most likely man to succeed President Chernomir. From there she went to Peking, to sign an historic agreement which was the product of patient negotiation during which she was initially criticized by her domestic political opponents for being too hard on the Chinese and then, in Hong Kong, for being too soft. Either way she has established a mutual respect with Mr Deng Xiaoping who is injecting the world's largest nation with a revolutionary (or counter-revolutionary) serum of extraordinary potency. Both these communist leaders, in different ways, may thus be said to have the key to their countries' future. Finally, Mrs Thatcher will today sit down with President Reagan, leader of the world's most powerful nation, with the recent endorsement for four more years of power ringing in his ears.

All three countries are at a turning point in their affairs, though some are more aware of the climacteric than others. If Mrs Thatcher's first conversationalist, Mr Gorbachev, actually succeeds to the leadership of this country, will he be able to halt its decline? Will he be able to turn the malign conservatism of his party's bureaucracy into a positive force for change? Are he or his bureaucrats aware of their historic failure to make the Soviet Union more than a warfare state?

In China on the other hand, Mr Deng is clearly aware of his need to undermine the stifling tyranny of China's Communist Party bureaucracy and to introduce a market philosophy into the world's largest country. Yet China's vastness will always make it hard to synchronize the aptitude of changing views at the top with the slow moving almost inchoate capacity of 1,200 million people to respond, in their different ways and at a different pace, to contact with the outside world.

So Mrs Thatcher will be able to give Mr Reagan her impressions of the state of affairs in these two countries as seen by her current or potential leaders. Of course, one would expect the President to discuss East-West relations with her on the basis of a more systematic analysis of what is going on than remarks such as "I like him. I can do business with him," which are reminiscent of a previous Labour Prime Minister's tendency to claim credit for being on Christian name terms with Mr Brezhnev. Such an approach to the relations between states of such different complexions as those on each side of the East-West divide introduce a distorting effect on the reality of diplomacy's potential which such superficialities are bound to

induce in Western public opinion.

There may have been some natural satisfaction in London that Britain was to be the first country visited by Mr Gorbachev after his advancement in the Kremlin, and at such an interesting time before the resumption of East-West talks. Perhaps this satisfaction outweighed more prudent reminders that, even as a Party man, Mr Gorbachev does not speak officially on Foreign Affairs or defence matters in the Politburo.

Nevertheless, for whatever reason, the underlying effect of these discussions was for the British Prime Minister to be used in a skilful piece of Soviet finesse which presented a world-wide audience with an appearance of affinity between the Soviet Union, Britain and her European allies, not just against the idea of the militarization of space, but by extension, against President Reagan's own specific plans for strategic defence against space systems.

The President's thinking on strategic defence, and on how space would be involved goes much deeper into the whole philosophy of nuclear deterrence and security over the next 30 years than one would have concluded from the focus of Anglo-Soviet discussions. The Soviet side was able to pin the subject clearly to expectations about what next month's East-West talks on arms control should produce. Washington sought to make some corrective comments but the damage has already been done before either side reaches the start line.

Consequently, Mrs Thatcher will find, today in Washington, that the week which established her supreme credentials as an international statesman, also exposed the risk of an emerging lack of mutual trust between London and Washington at the very moment when such a trust should be welded in bonds of steel for the next three to four years.

In "second-term" Washington, it is certainly possible to detect a feeling that the United States is opening up a gap between itself and the rest of the world, friends, potential friends and potential enemies. The full implications of this gap in philosophy and achievement are only slowly dawning on American public opinion and will take some time to be absorbed elsewhere. The significance of "the gap" should not be overvalued but its existence, and its political implications, should clearly not be ignored as we see out the twentieth century and cope with the start of the twenty-first. We may see the major cultures of the world grouping round some particular phase of technology which will ultimately be reflected in the political complexion of that culture. Although economists tend to judge eras by movements in GNP and other aggregates,

history is more inclined to denominate periods, from the age of steam to the atomic era - by their dominant products and technologies. As George Gilder, the American writer on semi-conductors has observed, "by that measure this is the age of the micro chip."

As she girded the earth last week, Mrs Thatcher first of all with Mr Gorbachev exemplified the divisions of old Europe. She as the leading stateswoman of Western Europe encapsulated the non-Socialist condition, though even West Europe still grapples with its inheritance, part of which is the proximity of the Soviet bloc. In Europe as a whole, there is a tendency still to react negatively, and certainly to the challenges of new technology. It is not likely to find any positive moves to call in the new world to help out the old.

While in China she encountered China's reaction not to the tired old Marxism with a European face, but to the challenge of the micro chip and China's need to respond to the pace forced in the Pacific by Japan and the other mercantile nations moulding their societies in the service of new technology rather than as its masters.

On arrival in Washington, however, Mrs Thatcher would have sensed that the gap that has opened up between East and West Pacific - between the residual socialist cultures there and the approach of non-socialists to the challenge of the future - is no wider than that which the United States is opening up between the non-socialist alternatives both in the Pacific and in West Europe.

The revolutionary potential of the United States is masked by the age of the President. The extraordinary optimism and dynamism of that country suggest that the President's age is an integral part of this revolution and not an anomaly within it. It suggests that Americans have discarded their old cults of ageism and sexism and other inhibitions on their thinking which were for a generation a kind of alibi for lack of achievement. Not since the days of Roosevelt has there been such a sense of a nation on the move, of a new strength in the United States, coming from all classes and all age groups making their own contribution to the country's emerging predominance in the world.

In the long term it will require statesmanship on both sides of the Atlantic to see that this widening gap of achievement based perhaps on two divergent philosophies, does not create impatience in Washington and resentment in Europe. All sorts of unfortunate consequences in the Alliance would ensue many of which would start small and become big. Of such a kind is the mutual discomfort caused by the Thatcher-Gorbachev talks and the White House reaction to them. It has thus been a salutary episode.

THE CROW MAN AS TRIBAL POET

In the fitfully lustrous canon of English Poets Laureate in fact and fiction, the most distinguished figure is indisputably the Fool in "King Lear". None of his successors has achieved as high a level of political relevance, nor commented on passing events in the Royal Family with such memorability and pungent imagery; also, he had the gift of brevity, which we undervalue at the moment only because none of the recent Laureates spread themselves much after they had taken the job on. There is a thunder-and-lightning quality about Mr Ted Hughes which suggests that he is better equipped than most of his predecessors to emulate the achievements of the greatest of them.

What will the appointment do to the Laureateship, and what will it do to Mr Hughes? A sinecure in the Royal Household is likely to seem as much an impediment as a help to most modern poets - putting them in a false position and lulling their aging muse into acquiescence with a pension. The drowsiness which came over Macfield, a man of energy and social conscience, is a standing warning to candidates. But there are nudes and muses, and they may feed on surprising food. It has already been remarked that Mr Hughes does not seem cut out for formally celebrating Royal

events like yesterday's in St George's Chapel - the traditional function which still bedevils our conception of the job, though Laureates have not been court poets in that sense for at least a century. Or rather, Mr Hughes is so very much cut out for celebrating births, deaths and famous victories in his own way that the imagination rather flinches at what deployment of entrails and bloodflows such topics might evoke.

He is an atavistic poet, insistently fixing his attention on the violence at the roots of nature, and effortfully carving out home-made myths about God and the Crow, resembling chopped-up mixtures of the Niebelungenlied and the Just So Stories. It is a style further from modern everyday life, with its infinitely various and touching detail, than the subject-matter of Betjeman and Larkin. Sometimes in his later work Hughes has been at risk of seeming predictable, even of self-parody. But of course there is something atavistic about the idea of royalty, too. Mr Hughes showed his awareness of that by remarking in his first interview that the Crown was "a symbol of unity of the tribe". He may, unusually among modern Laureates, be one for whom the idea of being a tribal poet may prove a powerful stimulus to the imagination.

What it means to be a tribal

poet today is very much more than making victory-chants in the mead-hall. It is likely to mean committees, letters to the press, television interviews on topics of literary interest, and generally putting on something like Yeats's mask of the "sixty year old, smiling public man". It would be a pity if all this came to seem a necessary part of the office, which may at times be best honoured by an almost silent but deeply revered sage, and at others by a Fool in danger of the stocks. But usually the Laureate today will be expected to talk as well as sing for his supper - more so, in fact. A public position implies a political stance, in the widest sense, even if it remains an implicit one. It was an enduring misconception that Betjeman was an unworldly figure with a talent to amuse, but nothing to say; that appearance was the means he adopted to put his point across. In the "unacknowledged legislator" line, everyday poets may change the world more than more overtly challenging ones. Every significant poet has to learn how to communicate what he finds needs saying with the means at his disposal: Mr Hughes is the first for some time whose temperament and strengths are of a type where it is possible that he may not only be good for the Laureateship, but that the Laureateship may also be good for him as a poet.

Attitudes to work

From Mr Nicholas Bennett
Sir, Dr J. A. Richardson (December 2) should not attempt to refute our assertion (leading article, December 6) that "many individuals" of school-leaving age prefer to work by arguing from a limited number of particular cases. For what it is worth, my own experience as senior master at a

Chatham secondary school, an area of higher than average unemployment, tends to support your underlying premise. A substantial minority of about 20 per cent of fifth-year pupils openly proclaim their intention of living on "the dole" (the local name for the dole) when they leave school. Considerable efforts are made by the school and careers office staff to dissuade pupils from such an irresponsible course and to equip

them with a positive attitude towards work. In the main we are successful; fewer former pupils are unemployed than in comparable schools in the area, but the problem does exist and will continue to exist whilst state benefits are available to school leavers as an alternative to training or employment. Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS BENNETT, 22 Almond Grove, Hemstead, Gillingham, Kent.

Obstacles in way of recovery

From the Director-General of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce

Sir, This association has worked closely with Patrick Jenkin and his predecessors in developing a cost-effective urban programme and has supported, in principle, the 1984 Rates Act and the current Local Government Bill. It therefore saddens us to have to criticise vigorously three decisions recently taken by the Department of the Environment, each of which has been condemned by members of the Government's parliamentary supporters, and each appearing to have been forced on the department by the Treasury.

First, the seemingly unjustifiable rise in water rates, where final details are yet to be resolved but which are expected to range between 10 per cent and 20 per cent, will add significantly to the costs of certain sectors of industry, such as the battered textile industry.

Second, the rate-support grant for 1985-86, on which final decisions at local level will also not be reached for two or three months, clearly threatens double-figure increases in a number of important industrial areas. The Government and the tarnished local government finance system must obviously share responsibility with local councils' reluctance to cut their spending. In the end business will pay and its competitiveness be impaired.

Finally, there has been the latest restraint on local authority capital spending, adding further to the difficulties of the construction industry, which has been equally battered by lack of demand. Our members will sympathise with the "voodoo economics" description: a more prosaic Chamber executive in the North-east saw the announcement as "unnecessary and unbelievable".

What business finds it hard to understand is how a Government which has made significant contributions to the reduction of industrial costs can now be forcing those costs up. Similarly, when increasing numbers of Government MPs are urging the need to refurbish the national infrastructure, capital programmes are reined back for no apparent reason.

We have consistently argued the need for such programmes to be determined over a longer term than, sadly, has been the case in recent years, and we endorse the recent call by the Institution of Civil Engineers, further supported by the Policy Studies Institute, for a broad framework of strategic planning of such programmes, rather than the present compartmentalised approach.

This may, perhaps, have been a fitting way to end 1984, but urgent remedies are required in 1985. Yours faithfully, R. G. TAYLOR, Director-General, The Association of British Chambers of Commerce, Sovereign House, 212a Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2, December 20.

Johnson Matthey

From Mr Patrick Brennan and Mr Martin Harper

Sir, In his open letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Financial Times, December 10) Dr David Owen sets out some estimates which, he believes, show that the bullion business of Johnson Matthey Bankers Limited has lost money and may continue to do so.

Dr Owen's figures, and therefore his conclusions, are wrong. The newly appointed directors now have sufficient information to confirm that JMB's bullion business not only has been profitable but remains so.

The losses are overwhelmingly attributable to bank lending of poor quality. Lending money is easy. Lending in the confident expectation of punctual repayment is another matter.

The new board, with able help from the staff and from other banks, is making progress. It would be a great pity if the job were made more difficult by wrong conclusions based on incorrect data. Yours faithfully, PATRICK BRENNAN, MARTIN HARPER (Directors), Johnson Matthey Bankers Limited, 1 Lloyd's Avenue, EC3, December 21.

EEC voting rules

From Sir Kenneth Christofas

Sir, Your "European notebook" today (December 17) attributes to the outgoing President of the European Commission, M. Gaston Thorn, the belief that the European Community's problems will not be solved until the Council of Ministers applies the system of majority voting.

What the proponents of this thesis often conveniently overlook is that the treaty itself requires unanimity for the adoption of a very large number of decisions, including all new policy decisions, such as those so often taken under article 235 of the EEC treaty. Indeed there are more articles in the EEC treaty which require unanimity for the taking of decisions than there are articles which permit decisions to be taken by qualified majority voting. Yours faithfully, KENNETH CHRISTOFAS, 3 The Ridge, Bolsover Road, Eastbourne, Sussex, December 17.

Gnomic question

From Mrs Pamela Wilford-Smith

Sir, "There you go." How come? Yours faithfully, PAMELA WILFORD-SMITH, Stanway, Dorrington, Hereford, December 18.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keeping control of heavy lorries

From Mr Dave Weizel

Sir, You are right to say (leading article, December 14) that controlling heavy lorries is "exactly the kind of function that a properly founded London-wide authority should be exercising". However, you are quite wrong to suggest that the current ban proposal is irresponsible or has been arrived at with anything other than due seriousness and proper justification.

It is now more than three years since the GLC set up an independent inquiry, under Derek Wood, QC, which reported in July, 1983. You are also wrong to suggest that the inquiry panel "made sharply divergent predictions" about night and weekend bans. In this respect, the report was unanimous, specifically supported by the two representatives of road freight transport on the panel.

Our work since then has been to build on this consensus and work up a detailed scheme to meet the needs of industry and the environment. This process has been undertaken openly in a series of public committee reports and meetings as well as a huge consultation exercise with commerce and industry.

In this context your charge of irresponsibility is unwarranted slur, not just on GLC members but on the team of professionals who have used the unique resources of the council to develop our proposal.

It is irresponsible to devise an exemption system to provide for the supply of perishable foods to London's traditional markets, or for necessary raw materials for London's industry? Is it irresponsible to research what steps can be taken to make heavy lorry operations quieter through driver training, better maintenance or the fitting of properly designed "hush kits"? Is it irresponsible to maximize use of the M25, not just for through traffic but for vehicles delivering or collecting goods for London?

I believe that any reasonable person who has seen or heard the evidence would agree that three and a half years of research, consultation, independent inquiry and public scrutiny have been enough to produce a scheme which offers positive benefits for Londoners at a minimum cost.

We do not consider that more will be learned until we implement the scheme and enter into our permit agreements with lorry operators.

Polytechnic troubles

From Dr John Marks

Sir, Your welcome editorial on the Polytechnic of North London (December 13) shows a realistic grasp of the complexities of left-wing politics which have dominated its affairs over the last fourteen years of endemic conflict and disruption. But may I correct you on one point?

It would not be a victory but a defeat for the far left if the polytechnic were to close. What the far left at PNL want, and have at the moment, is an institution - funded

annually by nearly £20 million of public money - in which they are the dominating influence.

What they fear most is the closure of the polytechnic and the adoption of what is increasingly becoming the only viable alternative - the relocation of its sound departments in healthier academic environments elsewhere.

Yours faithfully, JOHN MARKS, 2 Melbury Road, Harrow, Middlesex, December 14.

At our fourth congress in Helsinki earlier this year, messages of greeting and support were received from President Chernomir, President Reagan and Pope John Paul II and many other world leaders. An appeal from the congress was sent to both Mr Reagan and Mr Chernomir.

The message suggested that independent initiatives inviting reciprocity might be a way of breaking the deadlock that exists in arms-control negotiations.

To imply, as Mr Frost does, that an even-handed appeal to both superpowers somehow aligns us to one and pits us against the other is both illogical and unworthy.

Yours etc, CONN NUGENT, Executive Director, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Inc, 225 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, USA.

Airlines policy

From the Chairman of the Air Transport Users' Committee

Sir, In his article headed "Extra Gatwick runway sought" (December 8) your Transport Editor must have misunderstood what was said at the Air Transport Users' Committee's press conference last Friday.

We did not say that "the recent Government carve-up of routes between British Airways and British Caledonian was potentially damaging to the air traveller". We indicated that too much had been made of the international route swaps when the crux of the White Paper was that British Airways

would keep and be able to expand its services from regional airports. Passengers would be likely to lose out if BA runs into hard times and, as happened four years ago, cuts back or abandons regional routes in order to concentrate on its main hub at Heathrow. Better to have independent airlines dedicated to building their own hub at the major regional airports, as recommended by the Civil Aviation Authority in its report on airline competition policy.

Yours faithfully, GARNOCK, Chairman, Air Transport Users' Committee, 129 Kingsway, WC2, December 11.

Leaving Unesco

From Mr Conn Nugent

Sir, Mr G. Frost (November 8) alleges that this organisation "favours unilateral Western gestures and treats the superpowers as if they were morally equivalent". As executive director I would like to comment on our position.

IPPNW (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Inc) was founded, and operates today, for the sole purpose of educating the world about the medical consequences of the nuclear arms race. Ours is a non-political federation of 34 national affiliates representing more than 105,000 physicians (about one third in the USSR and one third in the USA). We communicate the same information to both East and West. We do not criticise the specific policies of any government.

The ring cycle

From Mr Hugh Leggatt

Sir, Mrs J. C. Margo in her letter (December 17) says that the problem of auctioneers "seems no nearer to being eradicated".

Whilst this is true, must emphasize that the problem will never be solved until the Government has the will to do so. Mrs Margo refers to the "Duccio ring" of 1968, but appears to have forgotten that the main blame for failure to institute legal proceedings against that earlier conspiracy was laid fairly and squarely at the door of the Board of Trade by the Ombudsman at that time. I should know since I was then the Chairman of the Society of London Art Dealers who, through two members of Parliament, referred the matter to him.

I just wonder whether the present scandal concerning a Queen Anne easel is going to be another example of *plus ça change plus c'est la même chose*? Yours faithfully, HUGH LEGGATT, Leggatt Brothers, Fine Art Dealers, 17, Duke Street, St James's, SW1, December 17.

He asks, how were the children persuaded to appear on television and do we have the right to ask them to reveal themselves in front of television. I would believe that they did not require persuasion to take part because, perhaps for the first time, they trusted those caring for them. This led them to be able to talk about their experiences, an important aspect of therapy.

That the public should be helped to understand the causes of child abuse is essential to its prevention. Yours faithfully, HUGH JOLLY, Hon Consulting Paediatrician, Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Palace Road, W6.

How to help our historic homes

From Mr A. M. Alexander

Sir, Mr Fleetwood-Hesketh (December 16) has identified a very real problem with regard to the preservation of the national heritage with particular reference to Kedleston. He has, however, attributed the difficulties to taxation policies rather than past history and people. He asks for private houses to be made free of capital transfer tax. We would all wish that taxation was moved away from our own assets and income and on to those of others. In the context of the heritage, however, what he asks for already exists.

The exemption afforded to heritage property under the capital transfer tax regime is such that, if the owner is prepared to put up with the inconvenience of public access, no tax whatsoever need be levied on the great houses of England and their contents.

That exemption of itself is insufficient. These houses require massive maintenance; and recognising this, since 1980, the Government has provided an effective medium, through the Maintenance Fund regime, to give similar exemption to the necessary endowment fund to support the houses, even though both remain in private ownership.

Even this is not enough. The deprivations of past fiscal legislation still linger on, and it is this problem that affects Kedleston and other great houses like Calke.

There is still room for further Government assistance, whether through the National Heritage Memorial Fund or the newly created English Heritage Commission. Moreover there will always be cases where the owners, for whatever reason, as in the case of Calke or Kedleston, fail to take the preservative action which would have been available to them.

For those cases it is incumbent upon the Government firstly to educate the owners, and do everything possible to persuade them to take advantage of the reliefs that are available, and secondly it must adopt a generous attitude to ensure preservation of those properties that still fail to fall within the letter of available exemptions, whether because of archaic settlements, or the simple inertia that seems to afflict some of their owners in coming to terms with fiscal impositions; particularly when this might involve not only lawyers fees, but also opening themselves to the public gaze!

Yours faithfully, A. M. ALEXANDER, 2 Crane Court, EC4, December 20.

Plight of Vietnamese

From Mr Christopher Macy

Sir, The present plight of the Vietnamese (report, December 18) could have been predicted by anyone who knew the history of such migrations. The decision to disperse them was a disaster. It is known that the incidence of psychological disturbance is far higher in migrants who are deprived of the support of their own communities. So-called ghettos have their advantages.

Furthermore, it is understandable that psychiatric medicine will not help because it is not what is needed. Psychological therapy and community treatment is the method of choice for these sad people, who are not, in the main, psychiatrically ill. Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER MACY, (Senior Clinical Psychologist), Raucy Hospital, South Lincolnshire Health Authority, Skeffington, Lincolnshire, December 18.

Spirit of Christmas

From Mrs Angela Howard-Johnston

Sir, For three years running I have failed to find in Oxford a traditional midnight service on Christmas Eve. My disappointment culminated at the University Church last year where the "Nativity service" was such a dreadful hybrid that several people walked out in protest.

I wish I could find a Church of England church within 50 miles of this city where, this year, I might be lucky enough to find the following: 1. No requests to shake hands with members of the congregation in the contemporary cocktail party fashion.

2. Candlelight instead of bright lights. 3. Traditional words and carols rather than modern "improvements" illegitimately photocopied on bits of paper, and the calling upon us to turn to a numbered "section" even for the blessing.

It would be an especial Christmas treat to make use of the Prayer Book again. Yours faithfully, ANGELA HOWARD-JOHNSTON, Pullens End, Pullens Lane, Headington, Oxford, December 13.

Undiscovered country

From Mr J. H. B. Gowan

Sir, My grandson aged four proudly announced that his part in the school nativity play was to be a leopard. His mother thought it a bit odd but assumed they were living things up with a few new animals.

However, when a costume arrived for fitting it was a shepherd. He knew about leopards from his picture books, but had never heard of a shepherd! Yours truly, JAMES GOWAN, 1 Syke Ings, Iwer, Buckinghamshire, December 12.

12, 13
Travel: The jet set's
Caribbean club: Values:
Sir Terence Conran on a
High Street revolution;
Eating Out; Drink: Port

14, 15
Family Life; Bridge;
Chess; Country Diary;
Review: Videos for
Christmas; In the
Garden on mistletoe

THE TIMES Saturday

17, 18
The Week: Galleries,
Theatre, Films, Dance,
Opera, Music, and a
critical guide to holiday
television and radio

Gold mine: £725
to be won in our
prize quiz and
jumbo crossword

22-28 DECEMBER 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Quiz of the year 1984

GOOD NEWS FOR SOME

- (1) Who awarded himself nearly full marks for pram emptying?
- (2) What celebrated the bicentenary of an event that took place in a gutter on Paris's left bank?
- (3) To whom were Shakespeare's sonnets dedicated "for his professional appreciation of William Shakespeare"?
- (4) What of MacGillivray's came out of extinction with a crash?
- (5) Who arranged a good hand for Flockton Grey?
- (6) Where did dogolas make a come back?
- (7) Who portered out of an undisclosed kidnapping and turned up in a London auction room?
- (8) By court decision, how many hens should a cockerel keep happy?
- (9) Which Egyptian hairpiece is going back on loan?
- (10) Where did Charles Spedding finish in front?

BAD NEWS FOR OTHERS

- (1) Which rock sank in Portsmouth?
- (2) Who shot two and was not reported to the police?
- (3) What proved an expensive place to send your mother-in-law, all expenses paid?
- (4) What triumph ended sadly in acclaim?
- (5) Which country is ruled by a shadow?
- (6) Who caught fire during a Pepsi Cola commercial?
- (7) What did Coca Cola and Cheez Doodles precede?
- (8) Where were more people in favour of a nuclear holocaust than wanted to keep freight off the roads?
- (9) What does the Speaker of the House of Commons have in common with Adolf Hitler and Larry Hagman?
- (10) Whose loss "was like the final curtain on a play what I wrote"?
- (11) Who admitted frightening his sister's girlfriends with frogs and being so ugly that his mother covered his face with a blanket and told the neighbours not to disturb him?

NO NEWS AT ALL

- (1) Which newspaper printed an interview with Arthur Scargill which he had not given?
- (2) Who came down to earth with a bump 22 years to the day after going into orbit?
- (3) Who was buried 439 years to the day after drowning?
- (4) What had put on four more pages after 40 years and was sold for 75p?
- (5) Who cut Bolero down to size (obviously not Bo Derek)?
- (6) What had followed the long and the short and the mad?

MONEY MATTERS

- (1) Who had £560 million to burn?
- (2) What "obvious political spectacle" made £115 million?
- (3) Where did Joseph Allen and Dale Gardner pick up £142 million?
- (4) Who had to trace family trees for £205 million?
- (5) Who could not get his hands on £8 million?
- (6) How did David Parsons get £1 million?
- (7) Who was "extremely interested" in £2,305 a year with the possibility of another £40 for an oration?
- (8) Whose home was saved by the budget?
- (9) Whose budget was short by £90?
- (10) Where was the finance minister fined for keeping a dog?

KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

- (1) Who proved Canute wrong?
- (2) Who invaded the everyday story of country folk?
- (3) Who photographed a calendar of filth?
- (4) Who read his Old Man of Lochnagar?
- (5) Who played Phoni Sid?
- (6) Who weighed in at 3.1188 kilograms?

SOME OLD FAVOURITES

- (1) Who are Stockton's best men?
- (2) What price a Vulcan bomber?
- (3) How much to put your name on the Great Wall of China?
- (4) Whose favourite Bible verse contains the line: "God is in the midst of her and she shall not be moved"?
- (5) And whose: "And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out..."?
- (6) Who listed the Kremlin as a favourite building?
- (7) What would have been "a monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much-loved friend"?

HEADLINE GRABBERS

- How did the following make news in 1984?
- (1) Bruce McCandless
 - (2) Rakesh Sharma
 - (3) Kathryn Sullivan
 - (4) Svetlana Savitskaya
 - (5) Chris Butcher
 - (6) Malcolm Cooper
 - (7) Medlock Bibby
 - (8) James Huberty
 - (9) Arkadi Gouk
 - (10) Michael Hancock
 - (11) Brian Cobby

QUOTABLE QUOTES

- Who said?
- (1) "The characteristic of the Good Samaritan is that he had a wallet with the cash in it to pay the bill."
 - (2) "Get off my bloody feet, Fred."
 - (3) "In an operation of this kind one would not go for a Proust or a Joyce - not that I would

Robin Young sets a prize holiday

exam for know-alls.
Name the people
usually paired with
those shown on
the right; and answer
the questions below

- know about that, never having read either."
- (4) "I think I would look very closely at how many people would have been hurt, and I might have said: 'Is it worth it?'"
 - (5) "I think if they hadn't been paying me for it I would still have gone on and done it, you know."
 - (6) "I want to put the pride back into Britain."
 - (7) "I would not want anybody looking at me to think this man is a thick, stupid, illiterate yob."
 - (8) "We begin bombing in five minutes."
 - (9) "To have him in bed with me was such middle-aged joy."
 - (10) "I am not one of your local characters. I don't vote here - I vote in Florida."
 - (11) "It is not enough to rearrange the deckchairs and to ask the band to play more loudly. It is time to notice that people are looking for the lifeboats."
 - (12) "Crisis? What crisis? There is no crisis!"
 - (13) "The editor of *The Sun* was an avid reader. He was always learning things from us."
 - (14) "It just occurred to me that this was the day I was not meant to see."
 - (15) "We are utterly, totally divided."

AROUND AND ABOUT

- (1) How is Chris Greener outstanding?
- (2) What in the British Isles is not considered worth more than 16 out of 20?
- (3) Where did Mardale surface?
- (4) And Melbury?
- (5) Who was well-chuffed at the Pool?
- (6) Which god lost his place on the pedestal?
- (7) Where did the family of man have to be reunited?
- (8) What did Jupiter collide with?
- (9) What repelled Mars?
- (10) How was Pluto picketed?

WHO DIED IN 1984?

- (1) Who had us doing the hokey-cokey?
- (2) Brought spiritual locomotion to the Home Guard?
- (3) Went just like that?
- (4) Came by day and night to scourge from end to end?
- (5) Jumped at one o'clock?
- (6) Had been praised as Jocasta in Oedipus?
- (7) Gathered flies?
- (8) Went ape out of water?
- (9) Was feeling poorly... proper poorly?
- (10) Suffered four hundred blows?
- (11) "Died of addiction to jogging"?
- (12) Painted his mother with a pint of Guinness?
- (13) Fed Proust on ice cream and iced beer for a month?
- (14) Was the kid?
- (15) Was Oscar's first lady?
- (16) Was called Madam?
- (17) Heard it through the grapevine?

How to enter

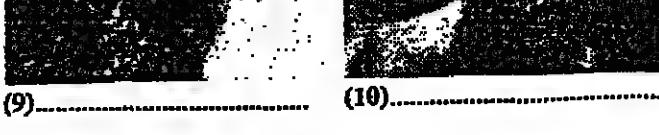
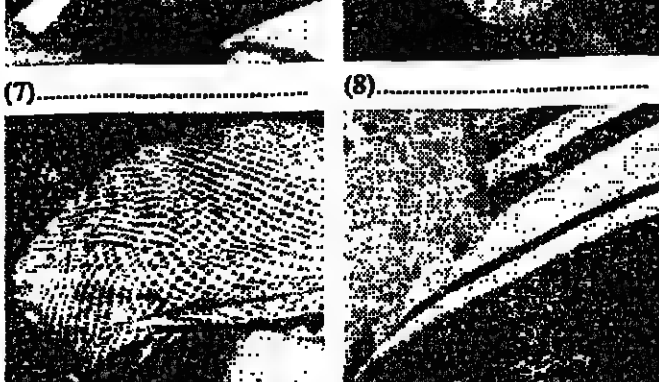
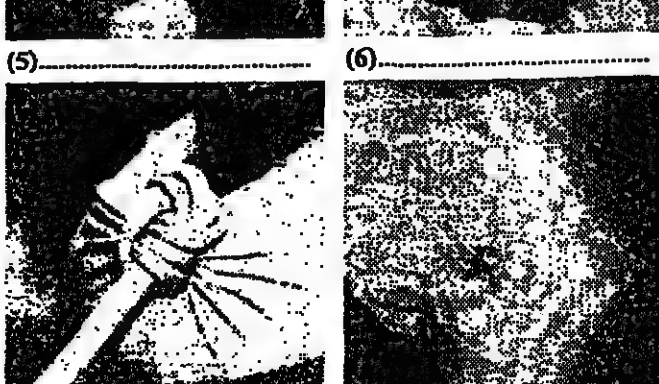
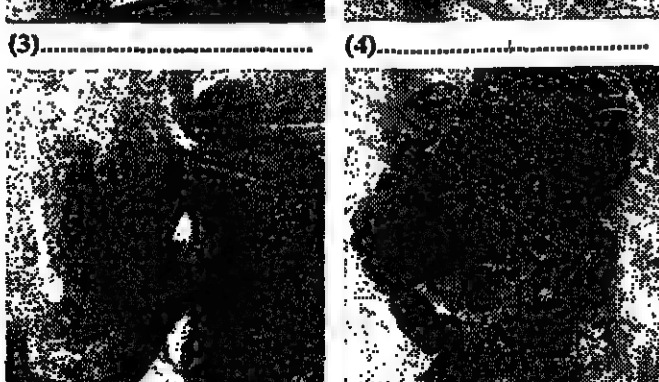
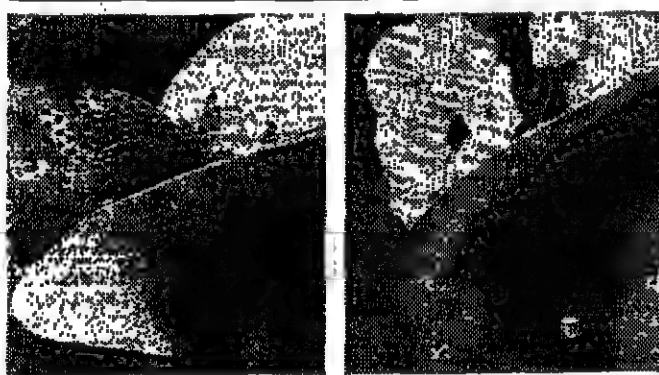
● Closing date is Tuesday, January 1. Send your entries to Prize Quiz, The Times, 12 Coley Street, London WC9E 9YT. The winners will be announced in the *Saturday* section on January 19. ● There will be prizes of £250, £150 and £75 respectively for the first three correct entries, or, failing that, for the three who score highest marks. Do not forget to include your name and full address. ● Employees of Times Newspapers Ltd and their families are ineligible. The Editor's decision is final.

NAME THE OTHER HALF

					
(1) Demon dancer?	(2) Nocturnal men?	(3) Patronizing valour	(4) Cake topping	(5) They met together	(6) Dear Liar
					
(7) Not Frederik	(8) The lesser leap	(9) Real Ellie?	(10) Quick change	(11) Dixon's sisters	(12) Phantom roller
					
(13) Banker and peak?	(14) Poles apart?	(15) Juicy favourite	(16) First across	(17) Wizard wife	(18) Top of the world
					
(19) Safe presumption	(20) Love on wings	(21) Trigger happy	(22) Her mother lucky?	(23) For openers?	(24) Asta's keepers

Quick quiz: One just for fun. Answers on page 17

WHO IS WEARING A ROYAL HAT?



SPORT

- 1 How many gold medals did the United Kingdom win in the 1984 Olympics? (Score a point for each one correctly identified.)
- 2 Name the first three home in the 1984 Derby.
- 3 Who won the 1984 Open championship?
- 4 What was the score in the 1984 Milk Cup final?
- 5 Who is world snooker champion?
- 6 Who is world chess champion?
- 7 Who holds the world record at 1,500 metres?
- 8 Who scored most runs for England in the Test series against West Indies?
- 9 Who finished top of the Rugby League?
- 10 Who won the 1984 Formula One world championship?

FOREIGN FILE

- 1 Who became prime minister of a) Canada? b) New Zealand? c) France? d) Grenada?
- 2 What was the name of the Sikh leader whose militancy led to the storming of the Golden Temple at Amritsar?
- 3 Who was the Nigerian in the crate?
- 4 Who is president of a) Argentina? b) Finland? c) El Salvador? d) China?
- 5 Where is Desmond Tutu bishop of?
- 6 What was the name of the tanker which sank with a radioactive cargo?

POLITICS

- 1 How many European Parliament seats did Labour win?
- 2 Who is chairman of the SDP?
- 3 Who is president of Plaid Cymru?
- 4 Who is Labour's chief whip in the Commons?
- 5 Who is Tory chief whip in the Lords?
- 6 Who is the youngest member of the House of Commons?
- 7 Who is Father of the House?
- 8 Who is Paymaster-General?
- 9 Who finished top in Labour's shadow cabinet elections?
- 10 How many parliamentary by-elections were there in 1984?

SPACE

- 1 Which was 1984's longest space mission?
- 2 How many days did it last?
- 3 How many space shuttle flights were there?
- 4 Can you name the first fare-paying passenger in space? (Score three.)
- 5 What proved inconvenient about space flight?

CRIME

- 1 What was the name of the wedding day murderer?
- 2 What was the name of the newsgang whose toe was cut off?

- 3 Name the policewoman shot in St. James's Square?
- 4 And the policeman who died in shooting after two post office raids in Essex? (Score five.)
- 5 Name the most wanted woman whose extradition was sought from Ireland?
- 6 Name the Australian criminal whose extradition was sought from Ireland?
- 7 Name the banned American whose appearance in Northern Ireland led to a death?
- 8 Whose death? (Score three.)

MISCELLANY

- 1 Who edits a) *The Spectator*? b) *The Field*? c) *The Tatler*? d) *The Times*?
- 2 What earth-shaking event occurred on July 19?
- 3 What came as a thunderbolt on July 8?
- 4 Who went summoned by bells?
- 5 Was it Marmaduke Gingerbites or Sonny?
- 6 What was too big for Berni?
- 7 What was unmentionable in front of royalty?

ARTS

- 1 Who won the Booker Prize?
- 2 Who won the Betty Trask Memorial prize?
- 3 Who won the Prix Goncourt?
- 4 Who won the Nobel Prize for Literature? (Score two.)

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VALUES

Stand by for the counter revolution

Sir Terence Conran - the man who made Habitat a habit - feels the pulse of the High Street and suggests a remedy: better design, better quality, better sales

Design, the buzzword of 1983, has been the action word of 1984. Last year Mrs Thatcher exhorted retailers, manufacturers, public authorities, and the City to look to good design as the solution to many of the commercial, industrial and social ills of this country. And it wasn't just lip service. The Government put up £20m spread over five years to get things started - and this has encouraged those who are in a position to do so to invest heavily in this newly recognized resource.

As a result, a metamorphosis is taking place. Designers are rapidly losing the image of arty aesthetes who would never darken a factory door, and are emerging as vital components of the business scene. The design colleges are responding, at last, producing graduates who have been trained to understand the needs and constraints of industry and commerce, who can design products which look as good and work as well as those produced anywhere else in the world, and who can interpret fashion and mood. Designers of this calibre deserve and need to reach the highest level of responsibility within their companies.

Retailers are at the forefront of those seeking to benefit from the additional value design can bring to their businesses. One of the reasons is that they have direct contact with the consumer and know at first hand just how demanding, fickle and sophisticated their customers have become.

The public, educated by travel, the media, and a growing band of retailers who recognize that well designed, good looking products will sell better, have a new-found taste for excellence, and will now settle for nothing less.

Retailing is one of the most competitive industries in Britain today, and this has resulted in a very active, innovative and exciting scene as businesses vie with each other to gain the edge. Design is a means of providing this edge - particularly in the hands of the larger retailers.

Products designed and manufactured exclusively for the retailer cannot be sold at a cheaper price anywhere else, own brands can be developed, special store design can exactly fit the needs of the customer and the style of the products, the corporate image can be strengthened and sharpened through distinctive graphics and packaging. All this adds up to a shop with its own particular personality which will endear itself to its own customers.

Design is now a multi-layered discipline which should be built into all the marketing and promotional strategies of a business right from their inception. The retailer who brings in a designer to do a quick facelift job, on a tired product or concept is wasting his money.

There are other factors too which have spurred the retail sector into handing out some of the largest design contracts this year. The recognition of shopping as a leisure time activity rivaling holidays abroad, sport, television and eating out, in popularity, has caused an enormous upheaval in the retail trade. The public have made it plain that they look to retailers to make shopping pleasurable.

Retailers are now strenuously considering how they are going to meet this expectation, and many new measures are in the pipeline which will revolutionize shopping habits in this country - liberalized shop hours and Sunday trading are among those in the headlines lately.

Following on from this, the design of store interiors, shopping precincts and malls, both new and old, is receiving a great deal of attention from retailers and property owners who already know that a pleasing ambience can have a remarkably beneficial effect on sales.

A recent example of this in our own group, has been the performance of those Richard Shops stores that have been completely revamped. Sales in these stores have far exceeded those where there has been no new design input, even though they are all selling the same merchandise.

The out-of-town superstore complex is another phenomenon which is likely to become more popular with the liberalization of shopping hours. Served by excellent communications these sites will offer a chance for designers to create an environment where it will be a pleasure to shop and work.

The development of such complexes is obviously a major undertaking and large multiple retailers are finding it beneficial to work together to attract customers from considerable distances for a pleasant day out. British Home Stores and Sainsbury's have already formed such a partnership,

and Marks & Spencer and Tesco have recently announced their intention of working together.

All this can be bad news for the small retailer who does not have the resources or volumes to achieve exclusivity or a price advantage over the large multiples. His future must lie in the quality end of the market, supplying a very high level of service to the customer, or in specialized areas of merchandise, or both. In these shops the quality and devotion to design will really have to reign supreme, and the liveliest new ideas must constantly be put before the public to provide an irresistible temptation.

To use design effectively in retailing it is essential that the retailer knows the profile of the person to whom he is selling. This is particularly important in the fashion industry, as has been demonstrated by the continued success of the Next chain this year where the design of the clothes, stores and advertising are very specifically targeted to attract 25 to 40-year-old women. By comparison, Marks & Spencer, which have introduced some excellent ranges for the same target group, have fared in relatively disappointing results - the customer cannot spot the fashion potential in garments dully displayed on racks lost in a sea of other clothes designed to appeal to everybody.

Manufacturing industry must follow the dictates of the retailers. And so it is, but in many cases it is rather like watching a dinosaur follow a hare. Retailers are still too often having to look abroad for sources of merchandise which with a bit of ingenuity and entrepreneurship could easily be produced in this country. If manufacturers can succeed in fulfilling the needs of the informed and discerning consumer in this country he will doubtless have a product which will be equally successful abroad.

But let me make one thing quite clear: while retailers will lead, manufacturers must also expect to contribute with design and innovation - they must never allow themselves to take the easy route of just being told what to do.

This new found regard for design has its pitfalls - the danger that we will expect it to be a panacea for all ills, that it will somehow compensate for weak management and unsound financial administration. Or that having made an investment in design it does not need to be sustained - the market place is continually evolving and competitors are always snapping at each other's heels.



Natural habitat: Sir Terence Conran in the living room of his home at Eaton Place in London

EATING OUT

Rendezvous with a midnight feast

Martin de Paris Drawing by Francis Moxley

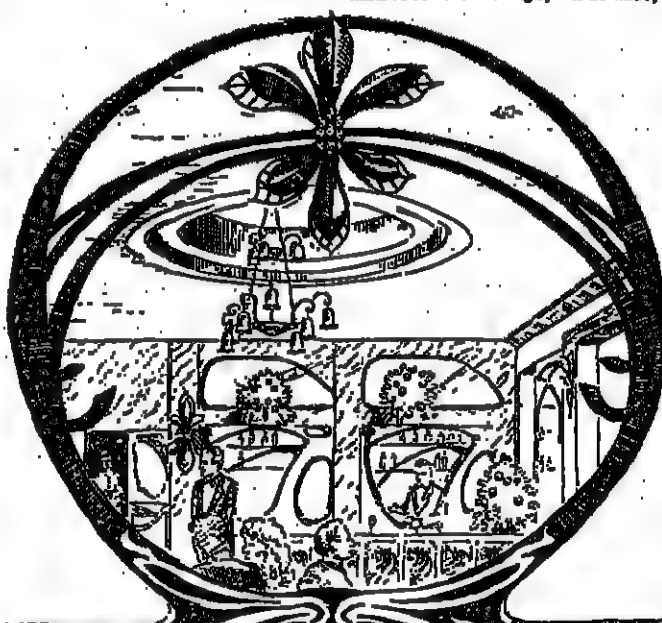
With Christmas almost upon us, New Year's Eve now beckons to those with the stamina for further festivities. Here we list a variety of possibilities for the last hash of the year.

New Year's Eve is supposedly the time for resolutions about changing or improving one's life. Anyone who is about to resolve to save money and to eat less would therefore be well-advised to head for the Grosvenor House's luxury restaurant Ninety Park Lane. As a last indulgence before an era of austerity, the restaurant's New Year's Eve dinner would seem hard to beat.

A nine-course meal is offered, with dancing - if anyone can manage it - for £110 a head. Overnight accommodation for those not "staying low" is available at £60 per double room. The menu for this extravaganza includes fresh truffle salad, scrambled eggs with oysters, seafood scallops in herb sauce, saddle of venison with blueberries and cinnamon pears and capon breast in truffle juice - this is before the cheeses and desserts. The evening begins with a champagne reception.

On a slightly more modest scale, the hotel's bright and modern all-day cafe-restaurant The Pavilion is offering a New Year's Eve dinner with a Caribbean flavour, complete with steel band, for £45. The menu includes half a bottle of wine, rum punches and three buffet-style courses of succulent pig, chicken, okra casserole and prawns in ginger and coconut sauce. For those who limbo on to the next morning, a New Year's Day brunch is offered from 10am at £18 per very sore head.

Back in the luxury-class, the London Hilton's Roof Restaurant offers a spectacular £115 Gala Evening to match its spectacular view over celebrating London. A seven-course dinner-dance includes fillet of



sea-bass marinated in Chablis, lobster and oysters with caviar, fillet of veal en croûte and petits fours. If you hear music and laughter coming up from below, it will almost certainly be The Variety Club Ball, complete with cabaret, taking place in the ballroom.

Another "money-no-object" evening can be enjoyed at the elegant Maxim's de Paris restaurant just off Leicester Square. £100 will buy you a champagne reception, a seven-course dinner and dancing till 3am to an 11-piece orchestra, with the added French touch of a cancan cabaret. The evening is black tie as well as black stockings.

Stockings and suspenders will also be a prime feature of the evenings at the two School Dinners restaurants which will no doubt look back on 1984 as the year they received royal patronage in the shape of Prince Andrew. With the gymnasium waitresses providing the distraction and unlimited drinks "free" all night, I don't suppose one should expect too much

from the dinner - avocado with prawns, melon cocktail, entrecôte steak, breast of chicken with yoghurt dip and apple pie with cream should really account for the £50 a head charge. Given the circumstances, perhaps that should read £25 a leg?

For a slightly more edifying spectacle, and at a reasonable price too, the eye-catching and spacious restaurant at One Hampstead Lane is worth consideration. For £29.95, they are offering a five-course dinner with coffee and champagne, complemented by live jazz and dancing. The well-balanced menu embraces game consommé, poached monkfish with a champagne and lobster sauce, mignons of lamb, beef and veal in a truffle and madeira sauce and a meringue with caramel.

I would imagine that Italian restaurants create a lively atmosphere on New Year's Eve when most of them can make an average Monday evening. A recent arrival on the scene Quadrifoglio, tucked away in its own stylish courtyard off

Charing Cross Road, probably deserves attention, not least because of its parentage - the well-thought-of Il Passetto in Shaftesbury Avenue.

Quadrifoglio is extremely smart-looking, with art deco touches, a small stage for its resident trio and a dance area. On December 31, they will be offering a five-course meal for £29.50, exclusive of a 15 per cent service charge. The menu, unusually for a New Year's Eve special, offers choices at most of the stages, ranging from crab cocktail or melon with port, to scampi in white wine, garlic and brandy sauce or fillet steak with paté and madeira sauce.

Finally, a mention for another stylish venue, the recently opened Princess Garden in North Audley Street. This sumptuously decorated Peking style restaurant has a number of large, circular tables capable of accommodating parties of up to 12. The menu, created by three imported chefs from Hong Kong, offers a wide range of excellent dishes, with their own hand-made noodles, the crispy pork dumplings being particularly good. At the time of writing the restaurant did not yet know whether it would be offering a special dinner or entertainment on December 31 - but then it's not their New Year, is it?

Stan Hey

Ninety Park Lane and The Pavilion, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London W1 (493 8363). Roof Restaurant, London Hilton, Park Lane, London W1 (493 8000, ext 4018). Maxim's de Paris, 32 Piccadilly Street, London SW1 (839 3051). School Dinners, 34 Baker Street, London W1 (466 2724) and at Bernard's Inn, Holborn, London EC1 (242 9572). One Hampstead Lane, 1 Hampstead Lane, London N6 (840 4444). Quadrifoglio, 127 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (437 8595). Princess Garden, 8-10 Northern Audley Street, London W1 (493 3223).

DRINK

Singled out as ports of distinction

Port nomenclature is confusing, with "crusted this" and "late-bottled that" sold alongside those more familiar bottles of ruby, tawny and vintage port. Thankfully, all one needs to know is that apart from vintage ports, the only wines likely to show any vintage character are the ports from a single quinta (estate). So don't expect that Christmas cut-price bottle of "Vintage Character" port to remind you of Graham's '63 or Taylor's '55 because it won't.

Vintage ports are a blend of the wines of several quintas. But some single quinta ports may well remind you of the real thing. Taylor's distinctive Quinta da Vargellas, for instance, has a particularly powerful bouquet reminiscent of violets and I pick up the same violet character in their vintage ports, which contain a proportion of Vargellas wines in their blend.

Graham's Malvedos is another good example. I find their wines have a strong tea-rose scent and their vintage ports often have a touch of tea-rose on the bouquet.

In recent years the distinction between what does and what does not constitute a single quinta port has become blurred, and this will probably only get sorted out when Portugal enters the EEC.

In the meantime the rule appears to be that single quinta ports are only produced in good rather than great years and therefore mature faster and cost less than vintage ports. I have not yet come across a port house that has declared a vintage port and a single quinta port in the same year.

There are thousands of quintas scattered throughout the port wine region's steep terraced hillsides that follow the mighty Douro for 70 miles as it flows down from the Spanish border towards Oporto and the Atlantic coast. What always surprises me when comparing one quinta's wine with another is the extreme differences in style between them and therefore how complex the art of port blending must be.

Those hot low-lying quintas clustered round Pinhão, for instance, tend to make big, beefy almost burnt wines while the cooler quintas higher up the Douro often make wines with a stinky green flavour and there is every shade of flavour in



bodied wines typified by their '80 vintage. (Corney & Barrow, £9.20.) Not dissimilar in style is the '68 Fonseca Guimaraens whose big, beefy burnt Douro tang reminds me strongly of Fonseca's vintage ports. (Oddbins, £8.79; Russell & Melver, The Rectory, St Mary at Hill, London EC1, £10.35.)

The two most famous single quinta names - and deservedly so - are Graham's Malvedos and Taylor's Vargellas. Malvedos's superb '68 vintage, with its wonderful spicy tea-rose bouquet and taste, is, I think, one of the best Malvedos vintages ever and a real bargain priced at £8.95 from Sainsbury's or £10 from Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver Street, Colchester, Essex. Vargellas '72 is another wonderful wine from a quinta set in wild scrub-like terrain even higher up the Douro whose deep purple colour and seductive velvety-violet character will be perfection in a year or so's time. (Bottoms Up £7.60, Gough Bros £9.99.)

Jane MacQuitty

Single quinta ports spend only two years in cask before being bottled and will therefore throw a heavy sediment whilst maturing in bottle. So make sure you decant single quinta ports carefully before serving.

● Last minute Christmas wine buyers will be glad to know that on Christmas Eve La Vigneronne at 105 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 will stay open until 11pm and Bibendum at 113 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 until 8pm.



At Christmas the tradition is of course Roast Turkey, but many choose Goose, Chicken, Duck, Beef or Game. Whatever the fare, hot or cold, drink a delicious Rioja wine, a velvety red or a dry fruity white. Don't forget those working in the kitchen! A glass of Rioja whilst preparing the family feast is always appreciated. Explore the wonderful wines of Rioja and find a quality and value that is unequalled.

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Christmas television and radio

Here is my critical day-by-day guide to almost 60 films showing during Christmas week. They include television premieres of *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Mary Poppins* but the accents are on older classics, with a season of Chaplin and such indestructibles as *The Big Sleep*, *The Third Man* and *Some Like It Hot*.

My star rating system (totally subjective, but I hope of value) is as follows:

●●● not to be missed

●● highly recommended

● well worth a look

An asterisk at the end of an entry indicates that the film is being shown on British television for the first time.

Peter Waymark

TODAY

BBC1

BREAKHEART PASS (1975)

5.45-6.15pm
Muddled Alister MacLean adventure-cum-thriller about a murder-strewn train journey across the Rockies in the 1870s. Charles Bronson and Jill Ireland head the passenger list.

THE BIG SLEEP (1946) ●●●
11.10pm-1am
Moody, explosive private eye thriller directed by Howard Hawks from the novel by Raymond Chandler and featuring the unique screen chemistry of Humphrey Bogart and slick Lauren Bacall.

BBC2

THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA (1958)

2.50-4.15pm
Ernest Hemingway story, adapted by him for the screen, about an old fisherman (Spencer Tracy) dreaming of the big catch. Heavy going at times, despite James Wong Howe's fine camerawork and an Oscar-winning performance by the old man.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (1946) ●●●
4.15-6.20pm
James Stewart rescued from suicide by a guardian angel and convinced that his life has been worth living after all. Last, and arguably the best, of Frank Capra's series of small-town comedies - a beguiling mixture of fantasy and sentimentality that hardly puts a frame wrong.

BLOOD FROM THE MUMMY'S TOMB (1971) ●
Midnight-1.35pm

A season of Hammer horrors kicks off with one of the more distinguished examples, about an archaeological expedition which excavates an Egyptian tomb and wishes it hadn't. Stylish take of the supernatural directed by the talented, wayward Seth Holt who died during shooting.

CHANNEL 4

HOME AT SEVEN (1952)

2-3.35pm
Ralph Richardson stars with Margaret Leighton in the only film he directed, taken from R. C. Sherriff's play about a bank clerk who loses his memory and 'winks he may have committed a murder'.

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY (1952)

3.35-5.05pm
Richardson and Leighton again, with Celia Johnson. A Italy filmed but remarkably acted version of Wynyard Browne's play in which a country parson has his life changed by family revelations during a Christmas reunion.

SKATEBOARD (1977)

11.30pm-12.00am
After Garland as a gambler who organizes a skateboard team to pay off his debts. As ephemeral as the craze that inspired it.

TOMORROW

BBC1

ICE STATION ZEBRA (1968)

3.10-5.30pm
Rock Hudson, Ernest Borgnine and Patrick McGeehan in a race between the Americans and Russians to recover a vital film capsule from the Arctic Circle. Efficient direction (John Sturges), but too much talk.

STEPTOE AND SON (1972)

8.35-10.10pm
Harold makes a stripper but still cannot get away from Dad in patchy spin-off from the television sitcom. Wilfred Brambell and Harry H. Corbett as the rag-and-bone men locked in family conflict.

BBC2

TORN CURTAIN (1956)

10.10pm-12.10am
Alfred Hitchcock's fifth film, a spy thriller which seems to get better with each viewing. Paul Newman as an American professor apparently about to defect, Julie Andrews the fiancée who refuses to be left behind; neither was happily cast, but typical Hitchcock mischief helps to compensate.

ITV

SCROOGE (1970)

3.15-5.15pm
Leslie Bricusse's musical version of A Christmas Carol fails to take off despite a game performance by Albert Finney as the old miser, and a supporting cast that boasts Alec Guinness and Edith Evans.

CHANNEL 4

THE TALL TARGET (1951)

10.50pm-12.15am
Dick Powell as a disgraced detective trying to prevent the assassination of President Lincoln on the train carrying him to his inauguration. Suspense thriller, with echoes of *The Lady Vanishes*, tautly directed by Anthony Mann.

CHRISTMAS EVE

BBC1

THE CRUEL SEA (1952)

2.15-4.15pm
Soft upper lips to the fore as Jack Hawkins and his men re-fight the battle of the Atlantic. Faithful Ealing production of the Nicholas Monsarrat best-seller about the adventures of a British corvette.

ONE OF OUR DINOSAURS IS MISSING (1975)

6.55-8.25pm
Adroit children's comedy from Walt Disney about missing microfilm hidden in a skeleton in the British Museum. Peter Ustinov overacts deliciously as the Chinese intelligence officer hot on the trail.

BBC2

THE GOLD RUSH (1925) ●●●

2.35-3.45pm
A Chaplin retrospective kicks off with probably his most popular feature, in which the little tramp is prospecting for gold in Alaska. Unforgettable scenes include Charlie eating his boots and the dance of the rolls. Chaplin's voice-over and music were added in 1942.

LITTLE WOMEN (1948)

4.45-6.40pm
Lush, sentimental version of Louisa May Alcott's story of four sisters growing up in the America of the 1850s. June Allyson, Margaret O'Brien, Elizabeth Taylor and Janet Leigh make up the quartet and there is crisp support from Mary Astor.

THE QUIET MAN (1952) ●●

10pm-12.10am
Boisterous, Oscar-laden John Ford comedy set in an Irish never-never-land. John Wayne as an ex-boxer returning to his native Galway to fall in love with Maureen O'Hara and engage in memorable fistfights with Victor McLaglen.

ITV

BENJI (1974)

10.40am-noon
Likeable family picture in which a stray mongrel dog saves two kidnapped children.

THE RETURN OF THE PINK PANTHER (1974)

3.10-5.15pm
Peter Sellers as the bungling inspector Clouseau, back on the trail of the stolen diamond. One of the earlier and fresher examples of a series that eventually outstayed its welcome.

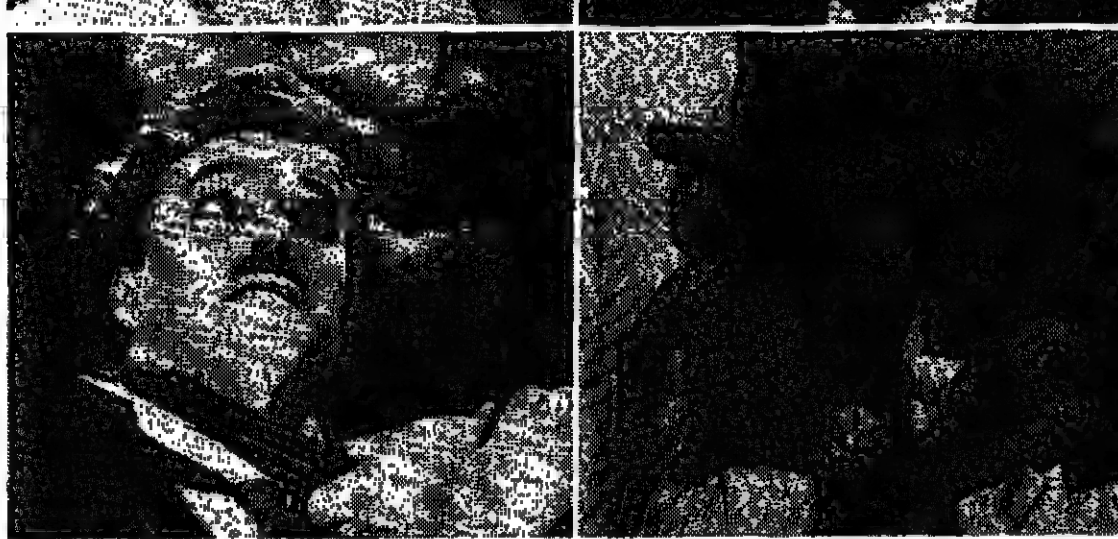
FUN WITH DICK AND JANE (1977)

9.10-10.40pm
Type is that the film never quite decides whether it is just fun or a satire on American middle-class life. Sprightly performances from George Segal, a fired aerospace executive who turns to crime, and Jane Fonda as his wife.

CHANNEL 4

A PLACE OF ONE'S OWN (1944) ●

10.55pm-12.40am
Elegantly crafted Edwardian ghost



Hoofing on the roof: Dick Van Dyke leads the choros of dancing sweeps in *Mary Poppins* (Christmas Day); Tracey Ullman in *The Young Visitors* (Christmas Day) and Orson Welles in *The Third Man* (Boxing Day); Charlie Chaplin in *The Gold Rush* (Christmas Eve); Harrison Ford in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (Christmas Day)

story, from a novel by Osbert Silwell.

Margaret Lockwood becomes secretary-companion to an elderly couple (James Mason, Barbara Mullen) in a country house and is possessed by the spirit of a murdered girl.

CHRISTMAS DAY

BBC1

BLUE MURDER AT ST TRINIAN'S (1957)

12.35-2pm
Second of the four films based on Ronald Searle's awful school stories. A silly plot about the girls getting involved with a jewel thief in Rome; but rich character playing from Alastair Sim as the headmistress, George Cole as the spy, and Joyce Grenfell.

MARY POPPINS (1964) ●●

3.10-5.25pm
On television at last, the Walt Disney favourite about a magical Edwardian nanny (Julie Andrews, in her film debut) floating in on her umbrella to take charge of two naughty children. Clever mixture of animation and live action and a cluster of catchy songs.

SOME LIKE IT HOT (1959) ●●

10.55pm-12.50am
Overstretched but intermittently brilliant Billy Wilder comedy of the bootleg era with Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis disguised as girl musicians, and Marilyn Monroe as a real girl musician, on the

run from gangsters. Curtis sends up Cary Grant, George F. Watts sends up himself; the opening sequence is a gem.

BBC2

LIMELIGHT (1952) ●●●

3.25-5.35pm
Late Chaplin film in which he plays a fading music hall comic who saves a young ballerina (Claire Bloom) from suicide and finds new meaning in his own life. Indignant but ultimately moving study of an old man's twilight, with a brief but telling routine in which Chaplin and Buster Keaton revive the glories of silent comedy.

KAOS (1984) ●●

8.55pm-midnight
Early television showing for one of this year's cinema plums - the Taviani brothers' exquisite rendering of four years of Sicilian life by Luigi Pirandello; plus an epilogue.

ITV

THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN (1974)

3.10-5.25pm
Christopher Lee takes time out from his horror movies to play the suave badie, Soaramanga, trying to nail James Bond (Roger Moore) with his golden bullets. Acceptable re-hash of familiar 007 ingredients.

RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK (1981) ●●

8.30-10.40pm
Harrison Ford as the archaeologist Indiana Jones in pursuit of Nazi treasure hunters in Steven Spielberg's affectionate homage to the Saturday morning serials. An action packed, sometimes incoherent film, whose writer, Lawrence Kasdan, has since turned director with *Body Heat*.

THURSDAY

BBC1

THE COURAGE OF LASSIE (1946)

2.20-3.50pm
The cinema's favourite collie, here confusingly called Lassie, helping to win the Second World War and the heart of its youthful owner, Elizabeth Taylor.

BBC2

THE VALLEY OF GWANGI (1968)

12.45-3.10pm
Ray Harryhausen's special effects are the highlight of this tall tale of the discovery of prehistoric monsters in a forbidden valley of Mexico.

MONSIEUR VERDUX (1947) ●●●

3.25-5.25pm
Little seen Chaplin film, which raised an outcry on its first release, in which he plays a modern Bluebeard, marrying and murdering rich women for their money. Critics were shocked by its cynical view of bourgeois morality but it has survived as one of Chaplin's sharpest and most original works.

REAP THE WILD WIND (1942)

6-8pm
Opulent period spectacular from Cecil B. de Mille, a story of love and intrigue on the great sailing ships off the Florida Keys. Stars John Wayne, Ray Milland and a giant squid.

WEDNESDAY

BBC 1

THE ADVENTURES OF QUENTIN DURWARD (1955)

8.15-10.55am
Spirited romp from Sir Walter Scott's novel set in fifteenth century France with

dashing Robert Taylor falling in love with lovely Kay Kendall, Robert Morley, Marton Gering and Wilfrid Hyde White keep the party going and there is a rousing climax in a bell tower.

THE FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (1965)

1.50-4.10pm
James Stewart, Richard Attenborough and Peter Finch head the star-studded survivors of a crashed plane in the Sahara desert; Hardy Kruger as the young German who may have a way out.

ESCAPE TO VICTORY (1981)

6.20-8.10pm
Michael Caine, Sylvester Stallone and real footballers Bobby Moore and Steve Armitage playing soccer against the Germans in a Second World War prison camp. Recreation of a true incident, steadily directed by John Huston.

BBC 2

THE GREAT DICTATOR (1940)

3.05-5.05pm ●●●
Chaplin's first full talkie, a searing satire on Adolf Hitler which mixes joyous slapstick and cold anger. Charlie underlines the point by playing both the dictator and a persecuted Jewish barber, and there is a splendid Mussolini from Jack Oakie. Paulette Goddard (Chaplin's third wife) in appealing support.

THE THIRD MAN (1949) ●●●

10.45-12.30am
One of the most enjoyable of all thrillers, set amid the ruins and racket of post-war Vienna with Joseph Cotten as the writer of hack Westerns searching for his old friend Harry Lime. Orson Welles is the villain oozing charm; original script by Graham Greene; atmospheric direction by Carol Reed; haunting music by the Austrian zither player Anton Karas.

ITV

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN (1953)

10.05am-noon
Sugary biopic of the Danish story teller, lifted by an engaging performance from Benny Kyte and a raft of hummable Frank Loesser songs including *Thumbelina* and *Wonderful Copenhagen*.

AIRPLANE! (1980) ●

9.15-10.55pm
Spirited send-up of the disaster movie in which a former pilot who has no control when the crew is attacked by food poisoning. More pace than *air* but some hilarious moments. With Lloyd Bridges and Peter Graves.

CHANNEL 4

THE LIVES OF A BEGAL LANCER (1935) ●

4-6pm
Gary Cooper and Franchot Tone coming to the rescue of a fellow officer in a stirring tale of the Indian North-West Frontier directed by Henry Hathaway.

LA VERITE (1960)

9.45pm-12.10am
Brighton Bardot on trial for murdering her lover (Sam Freni) in veteran director Henri-Georges Clouzot's intense story of crime and passion; said to be Bardot's favourite film and one of the few that stretched her as an actress.

FRIDAY

BBC1

THE GOLDEN VOYAGE OF SINBAD (1973)

2.45-4.45pm
John Philip Law leading his brave band of sailors through magic and fantasy with the help of striking trick effects from Ray Harryhausen.

RYAN'S DAUGHTER (1970) ●

8.45-10.45pm
Carefully crafted, sumptuously photographed but overlong story of Irish girl Sarah Miles who marries dull schoolteacher Robert Mitchum and has an affair with a shell shocked soldier.

CHANNEL 4

NEVER GIVE A SUCKER AN EVEN BREAK (1941) ●

11.45am-1pm
Shambolic and virtually pointless late W. G. Fields vehicle redeemed by a couple of scenes of the great man's humour, including one-liners like 'she drove me to drink, the one thing I'm indebted to her'.

THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1970) ●

10.30pm-12.45am
Sherlock Holmes (Robert Stephens) compromised by a Russian ballerina and smokes the doctor of the Strife in Scotland. Billy Wilder's affectionate pastiche had Colin Blakely as Watson.

ITV

THE THIRTY NINE STEPS (1978) ●

8.30-10.15pm
Third screen adaptation of John Buchan's spy thriller, with Robert Powell as the intrepid adventurer Richard Hannay. Lacks the flair of the 1935 Hitchcock version but closer to Buchan in period and plot and manages a nifty bring climax on the face of Big Ben.

SOMEONE KILLED HER HUSBAND (1978)

7.30-9.15pm
Unhappily married Farrah Fawcett-Majors has an affair with toy salesman Jeff Bridges, decides to tell her husband about it but finds he has been bumped off. Routine mystery thriller, trying for a light touch.

CHANNEL 4

OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR (1969) ●●

10pm-12.40pm
Brave attempt by Richard Attenborough - his first film as director - to translate Joan Littlewood's angry stage musical on the horrors and follies of the First World War. With a host of stars: Oliver, Gielgud, Redgrave, Richardson - in cameo parts.

FRIDAY

BBC1

THE BOY WHO TURNED YELLOW (1972)

5.05-6pm
The last film to date by the celebrated British screen partnership of Michael Powell and Emerica Pressburger, a fantasy about a boy's adventures with a visitor from outer space called Nick (short for Electronic).

NORTH SEA HILUCK (1979)

7.10-8.45pm
Roger Moore, heavily disguised behind a beard and glasses, foiling a plot to seize a North Sea oilrig. And if you believe that...

BRIEF ENCOUNTER (1945) ●●

10.45pm-12.10am
Railway station romance for housewife Celia Johnson and doctor Trevor Howard in David Lean's careful enlargement of a short play by Noel Coward. Often decided for its emotional restraint but exquisitely played and utterly true to its setting and period.

BBC2

A KING IN NEW YORK (1957) ●

3.25-5.15pm
Curious late Chaplin film in which he gives vent to the bitterness surrounding his enforced exile from the United States in the early 1950s. Universally savaged by the critics but now that the dust has settled worth another look.

THE CURSE OF FRANKENSTEIN (1957) ●

10.05-11.25pm
A gory reworking of the famous Hollywood *Frankenstein* and the film that launched the cycle of Hammer horror. With the usually chilling Peter Cushing as Baron Frankenstein and Christopher Lee inheriting Boris Karloff's monster.

DRACULA (1958) ●

11.25pm-12.50am
Another offering from the Hammer stable, with the satirising men - Use this time as Dracula and Cushing as Van Helsing. A stylish concoction from an underrated director, Terence Fisher.

ITV

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Sherlock Holmes (Robert Stephens) compromised by a Russian ballerina and smokes the doctor of the Strife in Scotland. Billy Wilder's affectionate pastiche had Colin Blakely as Watson.

Lo, stars with plum parts in a merry menu...

In Cagney and Lacey (BBC1, Christmas Eve, 8.55-9.45pm) a psychopathic gunman holds Mary Beth hostage in a boxcar. But never mind: Val Donkian is round the corner to soothe things down with the help of Pam Ayres and the TV weathermen. Christmas television in a nutshell: an unceasing flow of the melodramatic and the dotty, one merging effortlessly into the other.

It is the time when the good are upstaged by the great. A guest on the Paul Daniels Magic Christmas Show (BBC1, Christmas Day, 6.35-7.25pm) is the showbusiness personality of the year, Robert Maxwell. It is the time when Penelope Keith, preferably with Paul Eddington, gets a plum part in a Noel Coward revival; this year Judith Bliss in *Hay Fever* (BBC2, Boxing Day, 7.25-9pm).

It is the time to remember those who lit up previous Christmases. *Bring Me Sunshine* (ITV, Christmas Day, 6.30pm) is a mammoth tribute to the late Eric Morecambe, introduced by Ernie Wise, and featuring the likes of Angela Rippon and Des O'Connor. *Ingrid* (BBC2, Boxing Day, 6.20-7.25pm) recalls the famous films and turbulent private life of Ingrid Bergman, with the help of home movies of her childhood edited by her namesake (but no relation) Ingrid.

No Christmas would be complete, either, without Agatha Christie. The latest cult from the Queen of Crime is a

TV choice

three-part dramatization of *The Body in the Library*, with Joan Hickson playing the shrewd spinster sleuth Miss Marple. Mary the maid is strangled on the hearthrug and Colonel Bentley (Moony Watson) is the number one suspect. Andrew Cruikshank, Gwen Watford and Valentine Dyall are also implicated. The story opens on BBC1, Boxing Day, 9.15-10.10pm; and continues on Thursday and Friday.

Good to see Dave Allen back after too long a gap (BBC1, Boxing Day, 9.55-10.45pm); he is a comedian of rare wit who is never predictable. The opposite might be said of *The Two Ronnies* (BBC1, Christmas Day, 8.55-9.55pm) whose appeal lies precisely in routines that have hardly changed since the first Corbett/Barker show back in 1970. But why mess about with the menu when the dishes are still popular? Mike Yarwood you either love or hate; he is on ITV on Boxing Day (7.15-8.15pm).

Another offering from Ingmar Bergman this week is *Fanny and Alexander* being shown in its full, five-hour version over three evenings. The shorter cinema film gave only a taste of the richness and complexity of one of Bergman's finest works, a delicate study of childhood in the early years of the century. Part one is on



Royal couple: Mike Yarwood and Barbara New

THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Ups and downs on the privatization ladder

The Royal Ordnance Factories are to join the conveyor belt to privatization on January 2 when the Defence Ministry announced yesterday, they will start the year trading as Royal Ordnance plc. That date is far too soon for trade union leaders, who have to reach agreements on conditions in the new company and what will happen to 1,500 people made redundant, but it will be none too soon for Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, who is no doubt keen to make his contribution to the privatization drive and knows that it will take Royal Ordnance plc at least 15 months and up to two years to get into a condition that might appeal to the public.

Meanwhile Lord King, who has achieved all this transformation and more at British Airways, finds himself stalled on the runway by the private lawsuits over the demise of Laker Airways overhanging BA's finances. It is not as if Lord King has not pulled out all the stops and cut as many corners as possible to ensure that BA was floated in the present financial year, as Sir Adam Thomson and the US Justice Department can testify. But the multi-million lawsuits remain to ruin Lord King's commitment to a February sale.

The delay should not be too embarrassing for the Treasury. Higher than expected proceeds from the first tranche of British Telecom, plus Enterprise Oil and earlier sales have already more or less filled up the £1.9 billion privatization norm for 1984-85, although the exact numbers depend on how all the costs of the BT issue are charged.

Money market analysts watching the monthly public borrowing figures like hawks will not be so happy. Nor will Lord King. The delay is not merely frustrating. Lord King is understandably anxious not to miss the confluence of booming stock markets and airline markets. The Transport Department remains committed to privatization as early as possible, but the delay could be costly.

For the Treasury, on the other hand, it could be quite convenient. Next year's quota for asset sales is £2.5 billion, though this is not quite the same as privatization targets as some of these show up in state industry external financing balances. The second tranche of British Telecom will provide a strong base, but an extra £500 million net from British Airways would be useful too. Unipart, Short Brothers, National Bus and parts of Rolls-Royce are all lining up.

The first to show, however, could well be some of British Shipbuilders' warship yards. Negotiations are apace at Brooklands, and selling memoranda are available for Yarrow and Hall Russell which bids due in on a tight schedule by January 21. Management buyouts are possible in any or all of these as well as Vosper-Thornycroft.

Vickers will be a big bite for anyone. The three remaining yards - Vosper, Swan Hunter and Cammell Laird - await decisions about placing orders for Type 22 frigates. The decisions were promised before Christmas, but Mr Heseltine's department does not seem to have been in such a hurry for action in this case.

Polly Peck profits in the box

Mr Asil Nadir, chairman of Polly Peck, is trying hard to convince the sceptics who still cannot quite believe that a company which made £50.55 million out of cardboard boxes from nothing three years ago is here to stay. The 60-page annual report carefully details the company's activities and for shareholders who turn up to the annual meeting in February, there is a video of the fruit being packed, the televisions being assembled and the mineral water being bottled. Mr Nadir himself is in no doubt about his company's ability to survive and prosper. A confident £39.65 million is earmarked for capital spending this year against £18.8 million last year. All will be financed internally.

Sales of television video recorders are only just under way, but Polly Peck has captured 13 per cent of the Turkish market and hopes to have 25 per cent shortly after the factory reaches full production in February. Despite the high costs of a colour television (£550 to £660)

there is an estimated market of one million sets a year. A flourishing black economy apparently belies Turkey's official statistics of per capita income. Margins are satisfactory, says Mr Nadir, despite the 28 to 50 per cent duty on components.

This year's profits will have first-time contributions from consumer electronics and mineral water as well as burgeoning profits from fruit packing. Last year the agricultural side showed profits up 73 per cent on breathtaking 41.7 per cent margins, which were, however, down from 43.6 per cent the previous year.

Last year analysts overestimated Polly Peck's profits because of slippage in the television and water projects. This year, they are being strongly urged to err on the side of caution. Even so, they are forecasting £80 million pretax profits, which gives a prospective p/e ratio of four on a 35 per cent tax rate. Mr Nadir does not want to talk much about future projects for fear of being castigated again for being behind schedule. However, a food processing joint venture with Metal Box will get under way this year. The proposed projects with Rascal on defence electronics and Daihatsu to make cars are for a later date.

Treasury clash with Bank continues

The rift between the Bank of England and the Treasury is set to spill over into 1985. A fine disagreement is brewing over real wages (not a reference to the Old Lady's traditional high salaries).

The Bank's panel of academic consultants has been considering the link between real wages and jobs. So too have the Treasury's economists. A paper will appear from both Bank and Treasury in January and we expect them to come to markedly different conclusions.

The scene was set by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, on October 21. In a *Weekend World* interview, Mr Lawson said that if real wage growth had been 3 per cent less over the past year, half a million more people would have been in work. Since then the Treasury has been hard at work trying to support this claim, a task which, it appears, is not easy.

The difficulty is not in proving that there is a link. In the Treasury model, real wage cuts work through to higher employment, principally through the demand-boosting effects of lower inflation on savings. They also alter the balance of advantage between capital and labour. The problem has been producing an effect which matches Mr Lawson's calculations. Treasury economists are said to be pulling out every stop, including allocating model adjustments to employment, and yet still falling short of the "proving" that one per cent off real wages produces an extra 200,000 jobs.

A sample of the Bank of England panel's view was provided in the *Quarterly Bulletin*, published yesterday.

Professor J. R. Sargent concluded that a range of influences, of which the real wage is only one, is needed to explain employment changes fully. Sir Bryan Hopkin, former government chief economic adviser, sees some link between real wages and international competitiveness, but no generalized "high wage-induced unemployment" concept for the British economy applies.

Both stress the importance of the difference between real wages, as perceived by the worker, and real product wages (money wages plus employment costs like national insurance contributions, divided by an index of value added in money terms), as seen by the employer. The panel's provisional conclusion is that to see real wages cuts as a panacea for high unemployment misses out other, equally important, influences.

A year ago, the Bank's panel caused controversy, and a few red faces among Treasury ministers, by publishing a paper by Hendry and Ericsson, criticizing Dr Milton Friedman's work on the link between the money supply, inflation and growth in Britain. The Bank's academic consultants are ready to resume their thorn-in-the-Treasury-flesh role next month.

Thwarted Reckitt & Colman buys Airwick for £165m

By Alison Eadie



Sir James Clesminson: plans for US

Reckitt & Colman, the mustard to Disprin group headed by Sir James Clesminson, which lost the battle for the Australian company Nicholas Kiwi seven weeks ago, is buying the Airwick Group from Ciba-Geigy for SwFr 300 million (£165 million).

Airwick is a consumer products company best known in Britain for its air fresheners and Gumption household cleaner. Air fresheners account for 30 per cent of its total turnover and household products for more than 70 per cent.

Reckitt had Airwick under consideration when it made its abortive bid for Nicholas Kiwi. As a second best it has strong attractions for Reckitt. It has 38 per cent of its turnover in North America, the geographical region where Reckitt is most keen to expand.

David Clifford, company secretary, said Airwick "had the critical mass in North America we have been looking for".

It is also far less likely to lead to monopoly complications than the Australian deal might have. There is some overlap of products - Reckitt makes an air freshener called Haze, but not enough it is felt, to create difficulties.

The price being paid implies an exit p/e of between 35 and 40, which Reckitt admits is high, but says it is not buying past profits. Profits before tax in 1983 were SwFr 29 million. Reckitt believes it can dramatically improve Airwick's profits margins, which are 3 per cent compared with Reckitt's average of about 10 per cent.

Airwick's past profits performance has not been impressive, because it has been part of a chemicals company, Reckitt says. As part of a consumer products group it will be a perfect fit.

Airwick's largest markets outside America are France (15 per cent of turnover), Germany

and borrowings to make up the difference. Group net debt at the end of 1983 was £7.2 million.

The Airwick acquisition is considerably cheaper than Nicholas Kiwi would have been. The bidding was pushed up to a \$452 million (£322 million) by the intervention of the American Consolidated Foods Corporation, which eventually won. The Airwick bid will still require the approval of Reckitt shareholders.

Airwick's net assets at the end of December 1984 are forecast to be SwFr 210 million (£69 million) and it has no borrowings other than inter-company loans of SwFr 40 million, already deducted from the net asset figure.

The acquisition will increase Reckitt's household and toiletry business by more than 50 per cent.

Opec to fix prices next week

From David Young, Geneva

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) has given itself a week to agree on a system of controlling oil output and prices. It hopes to restore world confidence in its ability to stabilize prices and deal several wounds in the organization.

The options available to the 13-member producers' cartel were outlined yesterday to the oil ministers in Geneva.

The ministers will spend the next week explaining proposals for oil output and price controls to their heads of state and governments to the hope that final approval can be granted next week when the Opec meeting reconvenes in Geneva.

The media proposal put forward by a committee made up of Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates is that an ad hoc commission should be set up with powers to obtain precise information of members' output and prices being charged.

However, there is strong opposition from some members who claim that such a body would interfere with their sovereign powers to control the development of their main industry and their economies.

For that reason a far-reaching proposal that Opec should set up its own oil sales department through which all output would be channelled to world consumers has been firmly vetoed. The fact that Saudi Arabia seems prepared to go along with a similar commission may persuade other nations to accept. On the question of sovereign rights to control oil production, Saudi Arabia has always taken a hard line. For that reason is the only Opec member not to have a firm production quota, acting instead as "swing producer" and moving its output up or down within the overall Opec quota framework.

However, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, said yesterday that he will support the proposed measures to tighten-up Opec discipline.

He said: "Until we can have agreement on how our production quotas are adhered to there is no point in discussing the matter of price differentials."

The price differential issue will also be completed next week in Geneva with a new scale of crude prices being set. The overall Opec benchmark price will remain at \$29, but the price of heavy crudes will rise and the cost of the light crudes, which trade in opposition to North Sea output, will fall.

However, the issues of discipline and prices now being taken to member governments have opened several internal arguments, notably between Iran, whose output is almost entirely light oil and the conservative Gulf states which can produce both types of crude. Often bitter exchanges between Iran and the Saudi Arabian delegation have clouded this week's meeting and added to the tension within Opec.

Sterling rallies as exports hit record

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain ran a current account surplus of £278 million last month, as exports reached a record level, and trade in manufactured goods returned to surplus. The trade deficit dropped from £888 million in October to £122 million in November.

The figures helped the pound gain 72 points against the dollar to \$1.1735, the sterling index rising 0.2 to 73.2.

Exports rose from £6,254 million in October, itself a record, to £6,450 million in November. Non-oil exports were up 6.5 per cent in volume terms in the September-November period, compared with the previous three months.

Exports of manufactured goods were strong, and overall exports to North America rose 15 per cent in November, supporting the view that the pound's low level against the dollar is emerging as an important factor.

In spite of the November fall, non-oil import volume was up by 7 per cent in the September-November period, compared with the previous three months, and 14 per cent on the corresponding period of 1983.

The surplus on oil trade was £424 million in November, compared with £388 million in October. The monthly surplus has been halved during the coal strike.

The cumulative January-November current account deficit is £181 million, compared with a Treasury autumn statement forecast of zero for the full year.

Big majority opposed to Price Waterhouse merger

By Ian Griffiths

The rejection by partners in Price Waterhouse's British practice of the proposed merger with Deloitte Haskins and Sells was more comprehensive than has previously been envisaged.

It is understood that up to 80 per cent of PW's partners in the United Kingdom voted against the merger, thus vetoing the creation of the biggest accountancy firm in the world.

While neither firm can officially confirm figures, the majority against the merger must have been substantial since the announcement of the outcome was made so promptly. Had voting been close, both firms had the facility to return to dissenting partners to try to convince them to give their support to obtain the 75 per cent majority required from the four main countries, the United Kingdom, the United States,

Australia and Canada, for the merger to go ahead.

When details of merger talks between the two firms first emerged it was assumed that resistance would come mainly from Deloitte and in particular the British practice where the two firms are more equally positioned than elsewhere.

As *The Times* revealed on Thursday, the initial proposals from Price Waterhouse amounted to little more than a takeover. Deloitte then offered counter proposals which would have resulted in a genuine merger of equals which PW's policy team accepted.

While these new proposals won the backing of all Deloitte's key partnerships throughout the world it proved impossible for the PW leadership in the United Kingdom to generate enough support for the deal.

That news will come as a surprise to the likes of BL who, until recently, faced the sort of tough testing for imported cars which formed a hidden trade barrier to imports. Japanese consumers were encouraged to want domestically-produced models and were happy to own them - but the survey suggests that vehicles from abroad have now regained the snob appeal they had more than a decade ago. However, Japanese car makers are still outselling their British competitors in the two-way trade in road vehicles by almost 60 to one.

British sales to Japan were worth just £12.7 million in the first nine months of this year, with vehicles ranking as our 19th best export. For Japan, vehicle exports to Britain were worth £725 million in that period - almost £300 million ahead of that country's second biggest selling item, telecommunications and sound equipment.

Two-way business between the two countries topped £3.5 billion between January and September, but the year is certain to close with a Japanese trade surplus worth much more than that. British sales have risen by 15.1 per cent, about four per cent more than imports from Japan.

Shares of Tomatin suspended

By Jeremy Warner

Fears were growing last night over the future of Tomatin Distillers as last-ditch efforts were being made to mount a new financial rescue for the loss-making Scotch whisky group.

Dealing in the company's shares was suspended yesterday morning at 10p where a value of £1.3 million was placed on the whole group.

Tomatin of Inverness, which owns Scotland's largest malt whisky distillery, was rescued from collapse nearly two years ago after a £3 million injection of capital by British and Commonwealth Shipping, Scottish Amicable and the Heineken brewing group.

However, the expected upturn in the Scotch whisky market since then has failed to materialize and heavy losses have persisted.

Last night, Tomatin directors, led by the chairman, Mr Anthony de Boer, were locked in discussions with their financial advisers, the merchant bank, Kleinwort Benson. It is believed that attempts were being made to bring in a partner to help support the group.

Group losses in the first half of this year soared to £1.1 million and the chairman said that there were still no signs of recovery in demand for new whisky.

"It is likely that this situation could continue through 1985 creating serious difficulties for the company and further substantial losses in the second half of this year. The board is considering ways in which the financial position of the company can be strengthened," he said.

Tomatin has been hit harder than most other distillers by the fall off in demand for Scotch because most of its whisky is sold wholesale and it has therefore been severely affected by heavy destocking in the industry.

The company's Inverness distillery has been working at less than 20 per cent capacity for several years.

Commercial loan for IFC

The International Finance Corporation, the private enterprise funding arm of the World Bank, has made its first borrowing in the commercial market. The success of the operation is likely to encourage further tapping of private investors and underlines the trend within the Bank to more external financing from unofficial sources.

The IFC has borrowed \$50 million by issuing 10-year notes carrying a coupon of 10.4 per cent offered at par. The notes have been placed privately with European investors by Nomura International in London, the Japanese securities house.

In June the IFC announced that it would double its capital over the next five years to \$1,300 million (£1,120 million). The IFC previously obtained nearly all its funds from the World Bank, but political opposition to extra resources for the Bank, particularly from the United States, had driven the IFC into the private market.

The \$50m will be used for general lending by IFC. Earlier in the year the IFC laid down its priorities as being energy exploitation in the Third World, encouraging entrepreneurship in sub-Saharan Africa, and re-capitalizing companies in Latin America.

£12.3m takeover

Aiken Hume, the financial services group, made an agreed £12.3 million bid for the shares it does not already own in a property group. The terms are for a property group. The terms are for a property group. The terms are for a property group. The terms are for a property group. The terms are for a property group.

Dutch deal

British Land and its Dutch partner, Wereldhave, have let the 500,000 sq ft De Bogaard centre in Rijswijk, near The Hague, to the Dutch government for bus parking service on a new 12-year lease with no break clauses. British Land and Wereldhave recently bought the British and Belgian property portfolios of The Rank Organisation for a total of £57.5 million.

BHP higher

Broken Hill Proprietary, Australia's biggest company, raised its interim net operating profits to A\$341m (\$244m) from A\$282m. The dividend is 25 cents, compared with 20 cents. But BHP says that increased competition in all sectors will make it difficult to maintain this level of profitability. Utah, the coal operation bought from General Electric, earned A\$61m. Utah made no contribution in the first half of last year.

TSI purchase

Television Services International, a USM-quoted film and video production company, is paying £2.1 million for the loss-making London video production group Molinare, which states it is under-capitalized and continuing to incur losses.

Espley chief dismissed

Espley Trust, the Midlands property group, has sacked Mr Ron Shuck, the managing director, and threatened legal action after an investigation into £3 million of land bought in Scotland. Mr Shuck, who has been suspended since October, was running the company when the deal was done.

Espley's chairman, "company doctor" Mr Ronnie Aiken said yesterday the board had taken advice of leading counsel and had instructed its solicitors to "institute proceedings against Mr Shuck and others".

The Scottish deal was done partly in cash and partly through a share plan.

Mr Shuck's solicitor, Mr Cyril Alfille, said he could not comment on the statement from Espley "at this stage". Espley shares were unchanged in the stock market at 13p.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS		MAIN PRICE CHANGES		CURRENCIES	
FT Ind Ord	624.30 (-0.01)	Assam Doers	£10.25 +£5	London:	
FT-A All Share	N/A	Western Doers	750 +347	£: \$1.1735 (+0.0072)	
FT Govt Securities	81.9 (+0.02)	Howard & Wyndham N/V	41 1/2	£: DM 3.5535 (+0.0190)	
FT-SE 100	1024.7 (-2.5)	Williamson Tea	512 +82	SwFr: Sfr 3.0125 (+0.02)	
Burgins	22.518	Saleo TV	13 +2	£: FF 11.1850 (+0.01)	
Dataseam USM	103.39 (-0.99)	Gormie Hides	24 +5	£: Yen 230.75 (+1.50)	
New York	1197.65 (-5.83)	Ass Hotels	24 +5	£: Index 73.2 (+0.2)	
Dow Jones	1197.65 (-5.83)	C.H. Bailey	23 1/2 +2 1/2	New York:	
Tokyo	11,474.81 (-39.84)	Layland Platts	31 1/2 +3 1/2	£: Sfr 3.1150	
Nikkei Dow	11,474.81 (-39.84)	Perline Res	29 +3	£: Index 143.5 (+0.1)	
Hong Kong	11,474.81 (-39.84)	Sabina	29 +3		
Hang Seng	11,474.81 (-39.84)	J. Biliam	29 +3		
Amsterdam	181.0 (+0.3)	Coronation Syn	44 +4		
Sidney: AO	719.7 (+2.2)				
Frankfurt					
Commerzbank	1093.0 (+1.9)				
Brussels	157.50 (+0.22)				
General	180.8 (-0.4)				
Paris: CAC					
GOLD		FALLS:		INTEREST RATES	
London fixing	an \$308.85 pm \$311.	Barbican Hides	37 1/2 -1 1/2	London:	
close \$310.50-\$311.25	(\$284.50)	Rotaprint	57 1/2 -1 1/2	Bank Base: 9 1/2 - 1/2 %	
		Mil Corp	11 -2	3-month Interbank 10.5 %	
		Inter Pers	130 -18	3-month Euribor 9 1/2 - 1/2 %	
		Inter Pers	9 -1	buying rate	
		ERF (Hides)	37 -4		
		Resource Tech	47 -5		
		Bula Res	10 -1		
		Eginton	20 -2		
		Am Oil Field	20 -2		
		Oliver Pros & Ming	175 -15		

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FT 22

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Tea is the toast as index falters

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Tea was the share flavour of the day in the stock market yesterday. As champagne flowed in the pre-Christmas run-up, the shares of a batch of little known tea companies surged ahead.

Assam Doers jumped £5 to £10.25p. Western Doers advanced 347p to £7.50p.

Behind the gains were suggestions that Carmelia Investments, which is headed by shy Canadian millionaire Mr Gordon Fox, had indirectly increased its shareholding in Assam and Western, two of its satellites.

The price paid was considerably above the then ruling stock market level. Hence the upsurge in Assam and Western shares.

Mr Fox's move is seen by some as indicating a re-opening of the entire tea sector. With such thoughts in mind the shares of Eastern Produce and Carmelia itself moved ahead.

Eastern, which following the advance in tea prices recently announced interim profits of £8,578,000 against £3,355,000 rose 18p to 333p. Carmelia was up nearly £1 to £18.

Tea commodity prices have moved ahead strongly in the past year. Adverse weather conditions in tea growing lands have cut crops at a time when world wide demand is growing. Tea is still Britain's leading drink with two and a quarter cups consumed to every cup of coffee.

Carmelia owns just under 50 per cent of the Laurie Group, the plantation group which in turn has almost 50 per cent of both Assam and Western. Just to confuse matters even further Assam and Western have substantial stakes in each other.

A way from the brew-up in tea plantation shares, the stock market finished its Christmas run-up account on a flat note.

But a late splash of new time buying lifted prices from their lowest levels of the day. At the close the FT 30 share index was

Cadbury-Schweppes shares lost some of their sweetness yesterday as City analysts heard of lower-than-expected confectionery sales this Christmas. The price slipped 3p to 133p as some purposeful selling was included in the general market downturn.

down 6 points at 924.3 points, and the FT-SE share index was 1,204.7 points, up 2.5 points.

So shares ended what was a record breaking account looking breathless and uncertain. But trading was exceedingly thin. Many market men still expect the FT 30 share index to break through the 1,000 points mark within the first few months of next year.

Babcock International drifted 3p lower to 145p following the recent downgrading of profits forecasts from City analysts. But Westland, the West Country helicopter maker, regained 3p to 130p as the market got over the shock of the company's poor results a few days ago.

United Scientific Holdings keeps up its strong run after news earlier this week which could boost the electronics group's status with the Ministry of Defence. Mr Peter Levent, chairman and managing director of USH, has been appointed Chief of Defence Procurement by the Government. USH shares rose another 5p to 248p yesterday, making a 20p gain in the past week.

John Waddington slid 10p lower to 470p, still trying to find a stable trading level after the collapse recently of the bid from Mr Robert Maxwell, and the subsequent sell-off of his 23 per cent stake.

Sumrie Clothes lost 4p of recent gains, dropping to 66p, as Mr K R Humphris, a director announced that he has sold his 188,000 shares. Anglo European Investments has also disposed of 200,000 shares.

At Sale Tilney, the industrial and food manufacturing holding company, held steady at 380p as Electra Investment Trust revealed a small reduction in its stake to 14.55 per cent from 17 per cent.

Nis-Swift Industries, well-known for its fire extinguishers, rose 2p to 64p as Mr Jacques Murray announced the purchase of another 2,375,000 shares in the group. Mr Murray already controlled more than 50 per cent of the stock; he now has voting power over 55.85 per cent.

At Britannia Arrow Holdings, Mr Maxwell Packe has been appointed group financial controller, filling a new post at the unit trust and investment management company. The share price was unchanged at 84p, claiming down from recent market interest. Speculators still

wonder if United Kingdom Provident Institution is planning either to dispose of or build on its 22.75 per cent stake in Britannia.

Oil shares were again in trouble, with market men still talking of chunky blocks of shares being off-loaded. In the course of the past week several million shares of the leading companies have been sold, including four million of Shell and three million of Esso.

Price falls over the period have been double-figure, with yesterday's losses of between 2p and 5p adding to the gloom.

Burmah tried to resist the trend and fell just 1p to 217p as City hopes of a takeover bid for the oil and industrial group linger.

As disclosed in The Times on Thursday, Heron Corporation, led by Mr Gerald Ronson, has a stake in T I Group. "We think the shares are good value for money," said Mr Ronson, but he would not comment on his plans for the holding, other than to say it was for investment purposes. Heron is believed to have roughly 3.9 per cent of T I, well below the level at which Mr Ronson would have to formally declare his interest.

Shares in James Neill Holdings jumped 11p to 136p as Mr Christopher Moran announced that he has 2.26 per cent of the Sheffield-based steel company. Mr Moran also has 11 per cent of Suter, which in turn now holds a further 1.99 per cent of James Neill.

Neill has asked Mr Moran if he is acting in concert with any third party in his recent share purchases. Suter recently won its bid battle for Francis Industries.

At Fairline Boats, chairman and managing director Mr Sam Newington added another 20,000 shares to his own 928,090 holdings, and the price responded with a 3p rise to 53p. Mr Newington and his family controls nearly 70 per cent of the shares.

TEMPUS

How the Bank organized the gilt market in 1984

This year in the gilt market was a year for the connoisseur. To the itinerant punter, not a lot happened. The yield curve remained remarkably stable.

But for the professionals it was different. The year proved to be an exceptionally tricky one, when making money was really hard. And right at the centre of the whole market, the largest and oldest player of all - the Bank of England - found itself saddled with a well-nigh impossible task - the successful flotation of British Telecom.

The Bank faced a specific problem over British Telecom. It needed a stable equity market, and reasonable yield hopes, to get the corporate monster airborne. By definition, therefore, the Bank was obliged to pummel the gilt market into a reasonable state of optimism.

Simultaneously, a number of quite critical factors threatened to tear sentiment apart throughout the year. The Opec-US axis exemplifies this. Fears that Opec was on the point of breaking up threatened to drive sterling down on oil price worries. At the same time, the growth in US gdp affected the British rate structure, and pushed the currency ahead.

The apparently nonchalant approach of the politicians did not help. The shock announcement, overnight, that building societies would be taxed on capital gains devastated the short end of the gilt market. On February 24, low coupon shorts fell by 2 points, as the societies rushed to sell.

A heavily front-end loaded PSBR for fiscal 1984-85 put extra pressure on the funding programme at a critical phase in the spring.

Industrial unrest grew throughout the year as the miners' strike dragged on. The market periodically panicked. The quality of official statistics slumped, in line with the progressive deterioration in the earnings outlook. Market scepticism about familiar statistical benchmarks grew.

Finally, would the institutions actually have enough cash to buy the stock, when the time was ripe, given the countervailing appeal of the US market?

The Bank solved these problems fairly systematically. Some form of exchange controls may well have been invoked, proscribing institutions from investing abroad. Cash balances built up rapidly to nearly 50 per cent of total cash flow for institutions.

Reserves barely changed throughout the year. Perhaps the frequent issue of Fourra stocks-free of tax to overseas residents may have helped. In broad terms, this was the first time such stocks had been issued since 1977.

The Bank was obliged to run a heavy funding programme, not least because of the expansionary contribution to the monetary aggregates of bank lending. The bulk of debt sales were affected through taplets, sold direct into the market. This enabled the Bank to avoid pricing the market, as a conventional issue would. But in each quarter, the Bank relieved the bear market construction which taplets create by making at most two conventional issues.

The strategy virtually fell apart in mid-summer. Bad money supply figures, and fears about the US growth rate combined to hit sterling and oblige a protective move in interest rates from 9 1/4 per cent to 12 per cent. Short yields peaked at 13 1/2%.

As Mr Stephen Lewis, of Phillips & Drew, points out, comparisons between index-linked and conventional gilts of similar maturities reveal rising real returns in the spring, peaking on July 30 at 5.27 per cent. The risk premium in gilts, soared to around 2.45 (March;

1.18). In other words, the market was within an ace of backing off.

Thereafter, and until the BT flotation on November 28, relations between the authorities and the market changed. The Bank massaged interest rates down again, and gilts enjoyed an 11-point rally. Mr Jim Goodey, of County Bank, points out that this was the best and perhaps only time in the whole year, when the professionals could make some money. The Americans helped by easing their tough monetary stance ahead of the presidential election.

By degrees, however, it became clear that the authorities' way out of their policy contradictions would be achieved via depreciation of the currency. Sterling sagged about eight points on the trade-weighted, after May.

The authorities stepped up their sales of index-linked stock, neglected at the start of the year, as inflation hopes were high. Nevertheless, real returns kept rising. Plainly, the authorities succeeded in their task only with the tacit consent of the market, after the mid-summer collapse.

The scale of the effort involved in holding the market together before BT explains the subsequent collapse. It also justifies the Bank's circumspection over Johnson Matthey - a run on the banks would have been lethal before the flotation - and goes some way toward rationalizing the growth in the bill mountain, up over the year by £3 billion. This is the balancing item for all the paper deals elsewhere.

But just as Johnson Matthey has damaged the Bank in the public's eyes, so too has the growth in the bill mountain driven the authorities far closer for comfort to the clearers. Perhaps 1985 will reveal how the Old Lady extricated herself from these dangers.

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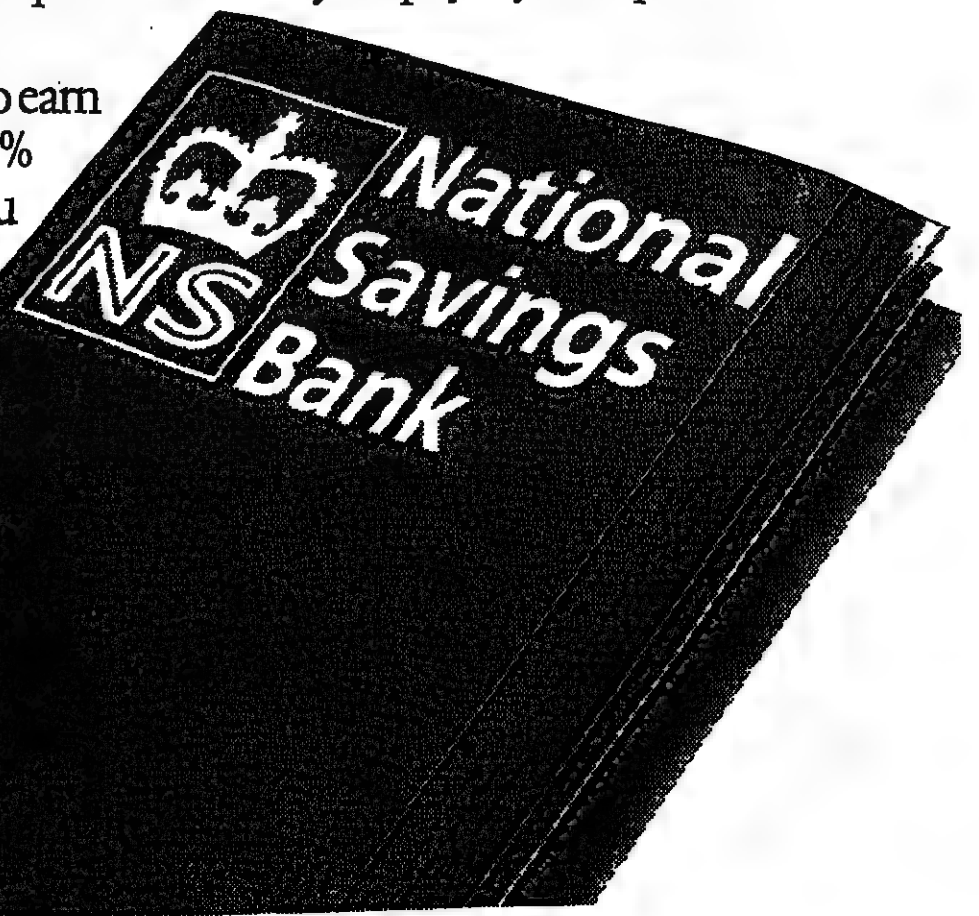
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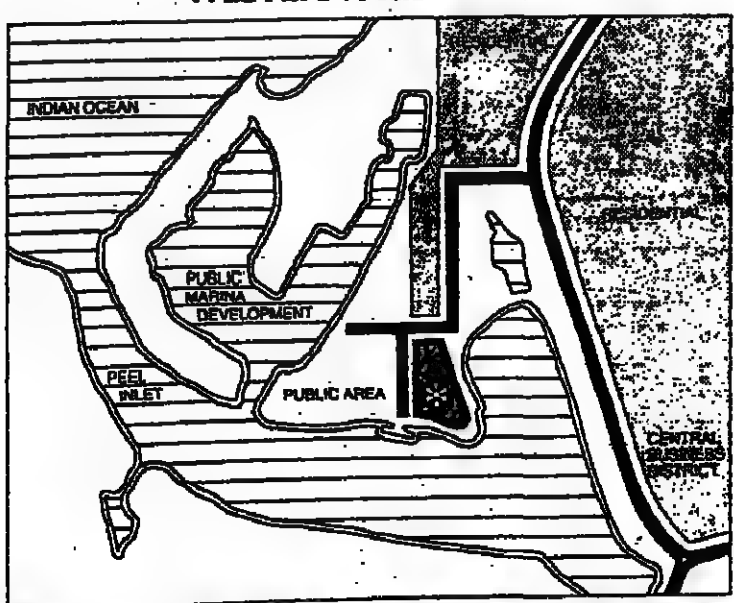
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6	Ames	1984	1.00
7	Ames	1984	1.00
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35	Ames	1984	1.00
36	Ames	1984	1.00
37	Ames	1984	1.00
38	Ames	1984	1.00
39	Ames	1984	1.00
40	Ames	1984	1.00

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £40,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

1984	High	Low	Share Price	Chg	%	P/E
1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00	0.0	10.0
1001	1001	1001	1001	0.00	0.0	10.0
1002	1002	1002	1002	0.00	0.0	10.0
1003	1003	1003	1003	0.00	0.0	10.0
1004	1004	1004	1004	0.00	0.0	10.0
1005	1005	1005	1005	0.00	0.0	10.0
1006	1006	1006	1006	0.00	0.0	10.0
1007	1007	1007	1007	0.00	0.0	10.0
1008	1008	1008	1008	0.00	0.0	10.0
1009	1009	1009	1009	0.00	0.0	10.0
1010	1010	1010	1010	0.00	0.0	10.0
1011	1011	1011	1011	0.00	0.0	10.0
1012	1012	1012	1012	0.00	0.0	10.0
1013	1013	1013	1013	0.00	0.0	10.0
1014	1014	1014	1014	0.00	0.0	10.0
1015	1015	1015	1015	0.00	0.0	10.0
1016	1016	1016	1016	0.00	0.0	10.0
1017	1017	1017	1017	0.00	0.0	10.0
1018	1018	1018	1018	0.00	0.0	10.0
1019	1019	1019	1019	0.00	0.0	10.0
1020	1020	1020	1020	0.00	0.0	10.0
1021	1021	1021	1021	0.00	0.0	10.0
1022	1022	1022	1022	0.00	0.0	10.0
1023	1023	1023	1023	0.00	0.0	10.0
1024	1024	1024	1024	0.00	0.0	10.0
1025	1025	1025	1025	0.00	0.0	10.0
1026	1026	1026	1026	0.00	0.0	10.0
1027	1027	1027	1027	0.00	0.0	10.0
1028	1028	1028	1028	0.00	0.0	10.0
1029	1029	1029	1029	0.00	0.0	10.0
1030	1030	1030	1030	0.00	0.0	10.0
1031	1031	1031	1031	0.00	0.0	10.0
1032	1032	1032	1032	0.00	0.0	10.0
1033	1033	1033	1033	0.00	0.0	10.0
1034	1034	1034	1034	0.00	0.0	10.0
1035	1035	1035	1035	0.00	0.0	10.0
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1037	1037	1037	1037	0.00	0.0	10.0
1038	1038	1038	1038	0.00	0.0	10.0
1039	1039	1039	1039	0.00	0.0	10.0
1040	1040	1040	1040	0.00	0.0	10.0
1041	1041	1041	1041	0.00	0.0	10.0
1042	1042	1042	1042	0.00	0.0	10.0
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1095	1095	1095	1095	0.00	0.0	10.0
1096	1096	1096	1096	0.00	0.0	10.0
1097	1097	1097	1097	0.00	0.0	10.0
1098	1098	1098	1098	0.00	0.0	10.0
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1134	1134	1134	1134	0.00	0.0	10.0
1135	1135	1135	1135	0.00	0.0	10.0
1136	1136	1136	1136	0.00	0.0	10.0
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FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

BOOKS

Pick of finance guides

One of the standard letters which every editor of a family finance page receives from time to time is: "Can you please recommend some good books on money/investment/tax/insurance, and the like?"

So, killing two birds with one stone, here is my selection which can also double as presents.

Top of the list must be the *Hambro Tax Guide* (Oyez Longman, £12.20), the most constantly referred to book, easy to understand, comprehensive and concise.

For a readable and general view of personal finance you can't beat the 1984-5 edition of the *Which Book of Money* (Consumers' Association, £12.95) which covers everything from appealing against your rates to buying a house and insuring your life.

The third choice will cost you nothing at all as it is available free from National Savings. Called *Investing in National Savings*, it contains everything you could possibly want to know about the terms and conditions of all the National Savings securities on offer, as well as the information on back issues of National Savings certificates.

If you have ever had to help an elderly person with his finances then you could probably do with a copy of *National Welfare Benefits Handbook* (Child Poverty Action Group, £3.50), which gives details of supplementary benefit, family income supplement, health benefits, housing and education benefits, and its sister publication, *Rights Guide to Non-Means-Tested Social Security Benefits* (Child Poverty Action Group, £3.50).

Finally, with pensions so much in everyone's mind, the *Allied Hambro Pensions Guide* (Oyez Longman, £11.95) is a comprehensive review of self-employed and occupational pensions schemes.

TSB

Bargain buy in the high street

Our advice not to delay opening an account with the TSB (*Family Money* December 1) could not have been more timely, with the TSB announcing this week the cut-off date of December 17 for eligibility for any preferential share offer.

A stake in the TSB could be well worth having. Since the TSBs have no share capital, every £1 subscribed in the offer for sale will go straight into the bank's coffers and improve its asset backing by the same amount. Which means whatever the flotation price, you will effectively be buying the shares at a discount.

On top of that, TSB has no exposure to foreign loans, is substantially underwritten by comparison with the other high street banks and has the security of its long-standing savings and deposit base on which to build new business.

Add to this its friendlier image, huge network of 1,600 branches and 6 million personal account customers, and you have the basis of a highly profitable business. Definitely a share to go for.

Children's bonus

More than 5,000 children have taken advantage of Yorkshire Building Society's offer of a £2.50 cash bonus when the balance in the account reaches £50.

Yorkshire's philosophy is to give cash bonuses rather than offer gimmicks and its Future Key Account is designed to give children an incentive to save. When he opens an account the child (who has to be under 16) receives a special passbook containing the £2.50 vouchers which can be claimed when the balance reaches £50, £100, £250 and £500.

Some 7,000 accounts have been opened since Future Key was launched in the summer and, of these 7,000 children, more than 5,000 have already qualified for at least one bonus voucher.

Future Key currently pays the standard building society ordinary share account rate of 6.75 per cent.

Details from Yorkshire Building Society, PO Box 66, Yorkshire House, Westgate, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD1 2AU. Tel: (0274) 734822.

Medical cover

A surprisingly large proportion of holidaymakers still go abroad without taking medical insurance. Yet even a minor accident can cost you several thousand pounds if you need hospital treatment.

The Automobile Association's Travellers policy offers comprehensive

benefits at a reasonable cost and it has just been revamped to provide up to £1 million worth of medical insurance.

Up to 17 days' cover worldwide works out at £23.10 per person with the cost reducing substantially for European travellers, down to £10.55.

Personal belongings are covered for up to £1,000, cancellation up to £3,000, money up to £250 and personal liability up to £250,000. There is also a 25 per cent discount for children aged from three to 14 accompanied by an insured adult and the under-thirties are covered free. Full details from AA centres throughout the country.

Loans in store

Next time you nip into British Home Stores keep your eye open for the Anglia Building Society/Boston Trust and Savings in store financial centre. While you are buying your handkerchiefs you can fix up a home loan with the Anglia or obtain a personal loan from Boston Trust & Savings for a new car.

The first of these new financial centres is scheduled to open in the spring with a total of seven such locations being planned by the end of 1985. Mr Tony Stoughton-Harris, chief general manager of the Anglia, said: "British Home Stores is exploring new frontiers in retailing by introducing financial centres into their stores. Anglia, itself in the retailing business, will be taking full advantage of this opportunity to join with Boston and BHS in this venture."



Don't let the beard fool you, I'm not due for retirement until 1995

Shares warning

A caution to all British Telecom shareholders planning to sell their shares through one of the high street banks: it may cost more than you expect. The brokerage fee on selling BT shares through a bank is the same as selling through a stockbroker, but some banks add a handling charge.

One of our readers told us that when he used Midland to sell his shares he was charged an extra 25 plus 75p VAT as a transaction charge. He understood from Midland that the charge had been introduced in September. But Midland

told us that the handling charge was entirely at the branch manager's discretion.

Barclays also charges for share dealings: 25 plus VAT on all deals of less than £1,500. NatWest charges on share deals, but it has made an exception for BT shares and is not charging on them.

Clearly, before selling your shares through your bank it pays to check on their charges first - or change banks.

Liquidation agreed

Investors in the failed licensed deposit bank, Eastcheap Investments Limited, who have nearly £1 million at risk, heard this week that the company is to be formally wound up. At a court hearing on Tuesday an application to liquidate the company was approved and there will be a creditors' meeting in February.

Some £300,000 of investors' money is at stake with an estimated £200,000 owed to other creditors. Most of the money on deposit seems to have been lent to property and finance companies and it may take a considerable time for the liquidator to realize these assets.

Meanwhile, one of the investors stands to lose £125,000, the entire sale proceeds of the family home.

Aid for Band Aid

Unspecified donations totalling £5,000 have been received by Stoy Hayward, accountants to the trustees behind the

chart-topping Band Aid charity record "Do They Know It's Christmas?"

The biggest single donation of £4,000 was raised by Swanwick Hall Comprehensive School in Derbyshire. The rest came from individual members of the public. Stoy Hayward is joining the many artists, record producers, dealers and others by giving its services free.

Bargain of '84

Investment bargain of the year must be the National Savings Yearly Plan - on offer at all post offices and still paying the princely return of 9.08 per cent tax-free over the five-year term. The appeal of this scheme is that, like savings certificates, the interest paid does not vary after you have joined. The yearly plan is a 12-month savings scheme, at the end of which your cash is turned into a four-year savings certificate. The overall return on the maximum investment of £100 a month is £1,781 for an investment of £1,200. Details from post offices.

Free offer at Lloyds

Lloyds Bank has joined the Midland and Barclays in offering free banking for retired customers who keep their account in credit. The new terms are effective immediately and apply to joint accounts where one account holder is retired. Eligible customers should apply to their branch manager.

Women at work

Do you feel that you are being denied promotion at work because you are a woman? Women in Business is the title of a three-day conference being organized by Management Centre Europe at the Portman Hotel, London, from May 9 to 10. "The conference has been created to examine the additional challenges and obstacles that women face in the increasingly competitive business environment," says the promotional literature.

The conference which will be held under the chairmanship of Mrs Audrey Slaughter, editor and founder of the new magazine *Working Women*, costs £320 for the three days including meals and accommodation plus 58,000 Belgian francs (£746) for the participation fee. Details from Management Centre Europe, Rue Caroly 15, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: 32-2-518-19-11.

Savers' club

Woolwich For Kids account - with automatic club membership - aims to provide the under-12s with an introduction to saving together with a free magazine, stationery and stamps and a birthday card each year. It could be a good idea if you have run out of Christmas present ideas. Gift cheques are also available from Woolwich branches.

WINE

Last-minute presents to cheer the festive spirit

They say you can never have too much of a good thing and this is certainly true of fine wines which are always welcome gifts at this time of year. CONAL GREGORY has been looking at what is available, both for drinking now or for laying down.

The buoyant wine trade has encouraged merchants to make several special offers.

One of the best selections comes from Hawkins and Nurick (31F High Street, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6AH), independent merchant, with discounts on 10 cases and more. It offers Joseph Perre champagne per magnum of the Cuvée Brut at £14.95, two bottles of the same at £17.65, or on bottle of both the non-vintage Brut and 1979 with four glasses for £19.75.

Hawkins and Nurick also lists packs of Armagnac Lasserre, single, three star and VSOP, surely the most undervalued quality spirit of France. A speciality 1953 Pays d'Auge calvados from the House of Morice answers the problem of the wine and spirit lover who has practically everything. For Burgundy, it offers a three-bottle pack of chablis from two estates at £14.95.

Green's of 34 Royal Exchange, London, EC3V 3LP, has six varied cases. The Vintner's Choice at £14.50 consists of four different grape varieties and can double as a guessing game over the festive season: Syrah 1981 from the Ardèche, Gamay 1981 from Beaujolais, Trimbach's Pinot Blanc 1979 from Alsace, and Colomard from the Côtes de Gascogne.

Green's has several more illustrious packs, as well as - for the lover of fortified wines - single bottles of Green's Amontillado sherry and Finest Old Wood port - delicious with walnuts before the fire on Boxing Day. This two-bottle selection costs £10.15.

Berry Bros. and Rudd (3 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1EG) offers sampling cases, which are an excellent idea for the new wine investor. There are 10 on offer, such as the "commune" case: an opportunity to taste six of the best-known Bordeaux communes for

£37, drawn from 1975 to 1977 vintages including d'Angludet from Margaux and Beau Site 1975 from St Estèphe.

The same firm offers a vintage claret mix, containing two bottles of six different 1974-78 wines for £46.50. The Berry Bros. and Rudd list recommends relative dates for maturity if the investor wishes to purchase case quantities of those most enjoyed. It will also cellar them at £2.07 per dozen bottles, rising on January 1st to £2.35, but take out additional insurance as this is included only to purchase value.

Probably the most extensive quality chain is Peter Dominic. Look for Graham 1975 vintage port at £9.10 and forward Delforce 1970 at £11.45, both including VAT. Its champagnes should let in the new year well - either a "Buyer's Own Brand" like Lambert Extra Dry at £5.99, which is exceptional value, or a marquee, like Charles Heidsieck Rosé 1979 at £9.89 for slight colour.

For a woody style to accompany game, try Vinicola Ribalonga's Dao at £2.19 from Dominic, part of Grand Metropolitain, Fontanafredda's Barolo 1980 at £3.45 or the unusual Chateau Musar 1977 at £4.99 from the Lebanon - a truly remarkable wine considering the production difficulties in that country.

If you like to make a combined wine and food selection, Ellis Son and Vidler (Cliffe Cellars, Cliffe Estate, South Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 6JL) offers "The Sublime Port" - a fine old tawny - with a stone jar of blue stilton for £14. Madeira, both the subject of a lovely book by Noel Cossart (Christie's, £15.90 hardback and £10.90 semi-glazed cover) and a fine winter wine, goes well with festive fare. A good selection is offered by Ellis Son and Vidler including Old East India at £5.59 for laying down and enjoying a decade hence.

Finally, do not forget several important new wine publications: *The Wines of Chablis*, by Rosemary George (Sotheby, £14.95), *Wines of the Rioja* by the Spanish expert, Jan Read (Sotheby, £15.95) and *French Fine Wines* by Steven Spurrer (Willow Books, £5.95). They will enhance any wine lover's library.

The Christmas Money Quiz



When the last television repeat of an old movie has been turned off, you might fancy a little light intellectual stimulation in the form of a Money Quiz. LAWRENCE LEVER has scoured back issues of *Family Money* and come up with some real teasers - just the thing to stop the brain cells atrophying after the Christmas port.

1. What is LAPR and what has happened to it in the Budget?
2. What did the Royal Mint stop producing on March 29, this year?
3. What do James Haswell and Anthony Barrowclough QC have in common?
4. Launched in November, it was the first BES-funded art gallery. What is it called?
5. Two reductions from 75 per cent to 60 per cent followed as a consequence of this year's Budget. What were they?
6. Which late comedian's wife challenged his will in the High Court in May?
7. Vanage, Budget and Excel have what in common?
8. Why did travelling cause the National Union of Students much anxiety?
9. Which bank guarantee was reduced by the Government from 80 per cent to 70 per cent this year?
10. What set brokers' telephones a-ringing with a massive premium?
11. Which American company offers its shareholders 10 per cent off its hotel bills?
12. What was launched on August 8, offering 9 per cent?
13. Why did a house in Streatham, London, cost only £500?
14. Who pays interest gross but will shortly be paying net?
15. What might DZ 80 9999 be?
16. Who lost her American Express card while hanging upside down?
17. Which credit card company recently introduced a scheme to cover holiday collapses but did not plug the gap?
18. Which building society launched a property service promising reductions in estate agents' commission?
19. What tax did some astute homeowners manage to save?
20. Which building society's perk was a snip at the price and a cut above those of its rivals?
21. Which insurance company changed its mind after criticism in *The Times* Family Money section?
22. What do DAS, Hambro Housley and IRPC have in common?
23. Why was June 1 a special date for many homeowners?
24. Who invested £70,000 and lost it all within 11 months?



Is he reliving his childhood?

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

MONTAGU

UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD

11 Devonshire Square EC2M 4TR 01-623 4270

Daily Dealing Prices as at 21st December 1984

	Unit	Price	Change	Yield
Gold & Precious Metals	48.2	47.1	-1.1	2.5%
Japan Fund	10.5	10.2	-0.3	0.2%
Japan Index	10.5	10.2	-0.3	0.2%
UK All Share	45.7	45.7	0.0	0.5%
UK Govt Bonds	45.7	45.7	0.0	0.5%
US Govt Bonds	45.7	45.7	0.0	0.5%
US Spec Bonds	45.7	45.7	0.0	0.5%
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US Spec Bonds	45.7	45.7	0.0	0.5%
US Spec Stocks	45.7	45.7	0.0	0.5%

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Edinburgh 9.25 9.55 01 538 6050

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National Savings Income Bond

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2 years Capital Life 7.75 per cent

Unit Price APR Telephone

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v-am

8.55 Good Morning Britain presented by David Frost begins with a Thought for Sunday from Bishop Gunton news at 7.00, 8.00 and 8.50. *Rub-a-Dub-Tub* at 7.02; cartoon at 8.02; John Wells and Nigel Rees review the newspapers at 8.50. The guests include Midge Ure.

TV/LONDON

9.25 Disney at Christmas. Mickey Christmas Carol. 8.50 The Christmas Christmas Special.

10.00 Morning Worship from St George's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Southwark.

11.00 Pilgrims. The two motorcyclists stop a suspected drunken driver only to die in his car plans for a missile system.

12.00 Cartoon Time. 12.15 *Kelly's Eye.* Matthew Kelly goes West Africa to see if there are answers to the problem of drought and famine. He meets some of the people are helping to rebuild the of shattered communities.

Teatime. defend the F. Knox of space from the evil Krell.

1.30 The Big Match. presented by Brian Moore. Highlights for matches played yesterday afternoon in the First and Second divisions.

2.15 London news headlines followed by *Children Sing Christmas at Canterbury.* concert of Christmas music from Canterbury Cathedral.

3.15 Film: Scrooge (1970) stars Albert Finney, Alec Guinness, Edith Evans and Kenneth Moore. A musical version of Charles Dickens' classic. Directed by Ronald Neame (Oracle).

6.15 Jasper Carrott *Got This* is a cartoon story written and narrated by Jasper Carrott.

6.30 Bullseye. Darts and general knowledge game, presented by Tim Bowen.

6.15 News.

6.25 Highway Christmas Special. Sir Harry Secombe is in Bethlehem. Not the famous one but the town in Dyfed, West Wales.

7.15 The Queen and her Christmas Honours. Peter Williams tells the story of people and the animals housed in the Royal Menagerie of The Queen's close involvement with them (Oracle).

8.15 Surprise Surprise! The unexpected presence of Black and Christopher Singins.

9.15 News.

9.30 Play: December Flower. by Judy Allen. Jean Simmons, Monte Washbourne, Pat Heywood, June Ritchie and Raynford. A drama about the newly-widowed Elizabeth who goes to stay with her elderly Aunt M whom she never met. She experiences nothing but outright hostility from the people close to the Aunt but Susan is determined that her aunt should be better loved than hated.

10.45 Best Friends - Cleo Laine. John Williams. A selection of music from the singer and guitarist, Plus John Davies and his Orchestra. Winner of Musician of the Year, vinyl Nigel Kennedy.

11.45 London news headlines followed by *Street Dances* documentary that traces the history of the early hot-rock dancers from the 1940s to the latest fery rancs of today's tracks and the breathtaking show pieces of the American

40 Peace. G. N. N.
of the people
positive offer

positive, and the world's leading
parts by Clossedown.

Lloyd (as Captain Beaky) and
Leslie Phillips as Herring-bell.

7.15 **The Migraine Surfer's** History
of Music. With Robert Taylor (1)

7.35 **A Small Country Living at
Christmas.** With Jeanine
McClivland.

8.00 **A Musical Evening.** The
Australian mezzo-soprano,
Yvonne Martin, talks about her
programme.

9.30 **News: Masters' India.** John
Masters' sages of the Savage
jungle spanning the years 1850
to 1950. Book The Last of the
Wind. (4) Horace No.

10.00 **News.**

10.15 **A Quarter-way.** With Anthony
Smith.

11.00 **Mindful of the Love.** Canon
John H. Smith.

11.15 **Now Are 60.** Barry Norman
talks to Christopher Robin Mil
and friends about the real world
of the 60s (1)

11.45 **Radio Brynhyrnydd.** The one-
radio station on Anglesey.

12.00 **News of the Week.**

12.15 **Victorian Christmas Miscellany**
VHF (available in England & S
Wales only). Radio 3's Christmas
events, except 5.55-6.00am
Weather; Travel, 1.55-2.00pm
Programme News, 5.50-5.55
Programme News.

Radio 3

6.55 **Weather.** 7.00 **News.**

7.05 **Berchof Christmas Music:**
Includes Torelli's Concerto
grosso in G minor (Vivaldi) &
Pavane for l'Amant (Natalie).

8.00 **Brahms Chamber Music:**
Includes the Clarinet Sonatina
in flat major Op 120 No 2
(Kauf/Reisen), and the String
Quintet Op 38.1.

9.05 **Your Concert Choice:** Includes
John Ireland's Cello Sonata

REGI

CENTRAL As London except:
11.00am Christmas
Believe! 11.00 Behind the Best of
Big Brass Drum, 11.30 Star Fleet.
12.05pm-12.15 Spinnin'. 14.45 Family
12.45 Closesown.

TYNE TEES As London except:
8.25 am Morning
Glory, 9.30-10.00 Mr Fire, 11.00
Smurfs, 11.20-12.15pm Chips, 11.45
Car Service from Newcastle, 12.45
Handbell Ringers, Closesown.

ULSTER As London except: 11.00
Monster's Christmas.
11.45-12.15pm Smurfs Christmas
Special, 11.45 Protection, 12.00pm
Sports Results, 12.15 News, Closesown.

SCOTTISH 10.00am Christmas
Memory, 11.00am Girls
Michael Cavalcade, 11.45-12.15pm
Tearhaways, 11.52-1.15pm Seaside
12.15-1.15pm The Christmas
12.15-1.15pm The Christmas
12.15-1.15pm The Christmas

CHANNEL 4

1.00 **James Lumsden, Senior**
Naidoo uses the example of
the fishing port of Chimbote
Peru to highlight to root
causes of ill-health in the Third
World (p. 1).

1.30 **David Angle**, With half the
population aged under 25 in
Southern Ireland and with the
country in the grip of a major
economic recession and
severe unemployment, Irish
radio examines the plight of
the young unemployed who
traditionally, would have
emigrated to the United States
or the United Kingdom to find
work.

2.00 **Silent Laughter**, A compilation
of some of the best silent
comedy classic routines.

3.30 **Citizen 2000**, A portrait of a
year-old Louise, the second
daughter of Marylaw and
Gordon Williams who run a
farm near the Brecon
Beacons, who will reach her
majority in the year 2000.

4.00 **Book Four**, The fourth
programme of the series,
presented by Hermione Lee.
She is joined by Germaine
Graver, Peter Ackroyd and
Anthony Carraway. Each of
each narrator tells their favourite
book of 1984, the book they
were most disappointed by
and the paperback they most
enjoyed re-reading.

4.30 **Karen Armstrong in
Conversation**, A discussion
with Gerold Hughes who talks
about whether all the world's
religions lead to the same
God.

5.00 **News summary and weather**
followed by *The Curious Case
of Santa Claus*, a
documentary tracing the
legend of Father Christmas
seen through the eyes of the

man himself and his psychiatrist who he consults when faced with an identity crisis (7).

6.00 American Football. The St Louis Cardinals versus the Washington Redskins.

7.15 The Fingerprint Phenomenon. The country's only professional rock climber Roy Fawcett, his wife Gill and Gerry Peel climb the 3000 ft high cliffs of the gorge of the River Verdon in Provence.

8.15 Film: The Masks of Death (1984) A made-for-television spine chiller starring Peter Cushing as Sherlock Holmes and John Mills as Dr Watson that begins when the super sleuth is lured back into harness after three corpses are discovered in the East End with expressions on their faces indicating a terrifying but unknown cause of death. Directed by Roy Ward Baker.

8.45 Carols from Christ Church with readings by Ian McEwan and Ian Charleson.

10.40 Ian Breckwell's Christmas Diary.

10.50 Film: The Tall Target (1961) starring Dick Powell and Paul Raymond. Thriller about a New York detective who believes he has uncovered a plot to assassinate President-elect Abraham Lincoln. Directed by Anthony Mann.

12.15 Closedown.

Radio 2

4.00am John Turner, 1.00 George Ferguson, 1.30 Good Morning Sunday including 7.45 Christmas Prayers, 8.00 David Jackson, 11.00 Diamond Carillon, 12.30 The Random Jottings of Hodge and Brackett, 1.00 Two's Best: 2.00 Benny Green, 4.30 Sounds Easy 1.45, 5.00 String Sound, 7.45 Sing Something Simple, 10.00 Sunday Sport, 6.02 Sports Desk, 8.30 Brian of Sport, Chillingale Match, Diamond and Peter Brown, 10.00 Sunday, 11.00 Michael Bentley, Ray Welford and John Wilson, 7.00 Vernon and Maryetta Williams, 7.30 Golden Oldies, 8.30 Sunday Half-Hour, 9.00 Your Hundred Best Tunes, 10.00 Songs from the Shows, 11.00 Songs by David Harris and Brian Kay, 10.45 Robert Carter and company, 11.00 Songs of Jazz, 1.00am Mixologist: 3.00-4.00 Two's Best.

Radio 1

5.55am Radio 1 Chip Shop Breakfast 5 + Computer Program, 6.00 Mark Page, 6.00 Peter Power, 10.00 The Read and Wright Christmas Show, 12.00 The Mike and Simon's Christmas Club, 2.15 Michael Jackson - Rock 'n' Roll, 3.00 Bruce Ford introduces an insight into the career of one of the most successful entertainers of the present decade, includes tributes from artists including Diana Ross and Smokey Robinson, 4.00 Hitville USA: The Story of Motown, 5.00 Top 40, 11.00 Anne Nozema, 11.00 and 11.05 The Sound of 12.00-12.05am Let The Spirit (London Community Gospel Choir), 1.00am RADIOS 1 + 4.00am With Radio 2, 5.00am With Radio 1, 12.00-4.00am With Radio 2.

World Service appears on the facing page

CHANEL As London except:
Starts 12.25 pm Good
News. 12.30-1.00pm Getting on. 11.45
Devlin Connection. 12.45pm
Closedown.

TSW As London except: 11.00 Night
on the Arnieke Talked. 11.25 Lock
and See. 11.30 Italian connection.
12.05pm-12.15 Connection. 11.45 Devil
Connection. 12.45pm Postscript.
Closedown.

TVS As London except: 9.35am-9.30
Action Line. 11.00 Society Goes
Hollywood. 11.45-12.00 Country
12.16pm Canon in the Kitchen. 11.45
The Sweeney. 12.45pm Christmas
Company. Closedown.

HTV As London except: 11.00am-
12.15pm Snow White Christmas.
11.45 Devil Connection. 12.35pm Five
Ways to Wales. Closedown.

HTV Wales As HTV. West
except: 10.45pm
Cardiff Festival of Choirs: Hand's
Melody.

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Reagan will look to Thatcher for support

Continued from page 1
meeting since Mr Reagan's re-election last November.
They will be joined by Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, who will lead the American delegation to the Geneva talks with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, next month.

A senior Administration official categorically denied some British and American press reports claiming that Mrs Thatcher was opposed to the "star wars" programme, a research project into non-nuclear space weaponry for destroying missiles in flight.

The official conceded that there were some West European reservations when the President first announced the programme in March, 1983, fearing that it might lead to the militarization of space. He added that the Reagan Administration had given detailed explanations of the programme to the Western allies, who now agreed that it was both necessary and desirable in view of the Soviet Union's similar project.

Economic issues will not loom large in today's encounter. An American official said the British economy had benefited from the high dollar and British exports to the US were at the highest level ever.

The whole tenor of today's meeting will be one of unity and agreement on arms control. The official said: "It is incredible to conceive that we would not be on the same wavelength."

● HONOLULU: Mrs Thatcher left for Washington yesterday after a 90-minute refuelling stop at a US air base in Hawaii (Reuters reports). She arrived here after a two-hour stopover in Guam.

Red faces, itinerary, page 4
Leading article, page 9

Bomb signals grim Beirut Christmas



The scene at Tas-al-Meta yesterday after a car bomb containing 200 kilos of explosive destroyed a school

At least four Druze civilians were killed and another 32 wounded - including 19 children - yesterday when a huge car bomb exploded in front of a school at Ras al-Meta in the mountains above Beirut (Robert Fisk writes).

According to the Druze radio station, the front of the school collapsed with the blast and many of the wounded had to be dug out of the rubble by militiamen.

Almost at once, a series of fierce artillery battles started between Christian and Druze militias in east Beirut which, for the third time in four days, came under shellfire from Druze-held areas of the mountains. In apparent revenge, Christian Phalangists fired

back at the Druze-controlled town of Bhamdoun. Christian radio stations, which had been playing Christmas carols for much of the morning, interrupted their programmes to order the population of east Beirut to stay indoors.

In north-east Beirut, which has been a bloody Christmas around Beirut. Fighting continued yesterday, down the hillsides toward the Kharrout region above the Israeli front-line on the Awali river. Sunni Muslim militiamen there are still threatening to wipe out Christian forces on the coast when the Israelis withdraw - which they may do within two or three weeks.

Power shift in Politburo after death of Ustinov

Continued from page 1

On the other hand, Marshal Ustinov had championed the military point of view in the Politburo so effectively since donning a marshal's uniform in 1976 that he was regarded latterly as the mouthpiece of the armed forces in the party leadership, rather than the other way round.

The appointment of a professional soldier to succeed Marshal Ustinov could have an impact on the Soviet position on arms control, and would remind Russians of Marshal Ustinov's predecessor, Marshal Grechko, who was given a seat on the Politburo in 1973, despite his military background.

The death of Marshal Ustinov also affects the power balance in the Politburo between the younger generation, represented above all by Mr Gorbachov, aged 53, and the older generation, which made its careers under Stalin.

Marshal Ustinov, who was Stalin's Armaments Minister while in his thirties, was one of the "old guard" leaders. After the death of President Brezhnev in 1982, Marshal Ustinov played an increasingly important role and this year formed a triumvirate with President Chernenko, aged 73, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the 75-year-old Foreign Minister.

This week Marshal Ustinov was nominated as a candidate in coming elections to local Soviets (councils), but it had become increasingly obvious that he was seriously ill.

Four days ago it was announced that Marshal Vasily Petrov would head a military delegation to Vietnam, a mission which Marshal Ustinov would normally have been expected to lead.

Screen god turning worship into votes

Letter from Delhi

Two years ago the Indian film star Amitabh Bachchan lay close to death after a film stunt accident, and this nation of avid flingers prayed for days. So, too, did the Bombay film moguls who had a stake in his stardom.

Now the handsome Mr Bachchan is looking for votes rather than prayers. He is one of several stars standing for Parliament in the world's largest election, and, if the opinion polls are a good guide, the people who come to gaze at him will turn their worship into enough votes to sweep him into the seat in the city of Allahabad.

Mr Bachchan, a political novice, has been telling crowds that what they see on the screen is not what they get in real life. This is just as well, for he has made a career out of playing violent anti-heroes who seek vengeance and justice outside the law.

In one of his most popular films he plays a political leader who solves the opposition problem by blasting them all with a machine gun. Naturally, his real-life opponent is making a point of this, and draws attention to other roles in which the star prefers fist and gun to argument.

The arrival of film stars on the electoral stage is an indication of how Indian politics has changed since the early years when politicians tended to be more heavyweight men of serious men.

More razzmatazz than ever before
Elections in this highly political country were always razzmatazz. But in this election there is more razzmatazz, image promotion and heavy spending on newspaper advertising and posters than there has ever been.

In a country where television is in its infancy and rather dull, films are the most potent popular medium. Leading actors command huge and soaring followings. Just by being a famous face a film star has a head start in the electoral race.

Mr Bachchan is an old friend of Mr Rajiv Gandhi. He decided to stand for the Congress (I) Party after Mrs Gandhi was murdered. The former Prime Minister was among those who visited him during his famous fight for life in a Bombay hospital.

Mr Bachchan is by no means the only film actor to turn a screen following into a political one. In the southern state of Tamil Nadu, Mr M. G. Ramachandran, a regional superstar, became Chief Minister four years ago.

In neighbouring Andhra Pradesh the Chief Minister is Mr N. T. Rama Rao, who played Hindu gods for so long on the screen that he is regarded as almost a god himself.

Throneless princes in fight for seats
Real princes, as well as screen princes, are also out in some force in the fight for seats. Thirteen scions of the former royal families of India, the heirs to now non-existent thrones, are making the most of the local influence they still retain to get into Parliament.

The most celebrated battle is that between Madhav Rao Scindia, son of the last Maharaja of Gwalior, and Mr Atul Behari Vajpayee, who leads the BJP opposition party. Mr Scindia and his mother, the Maharani, are feuding over politics and property, and in the election the Maharani supports her son's opponent.

The matinee idols and princes are among more than 5,000 candidates contesting 511 seats. The electorate is 379 million and votes will be cast in 450,000 ballot boxes in 450,000 polling stations.

Cameleopard carry boxes in desert areas of Rajasthan, and elephants will carry them in some other parts of the country. About two million men will be on security duty. Ballot papers have been prepared in 15 languages, and in some places there are numerous candidates the ballot papers are larger than a newspaper page.

Trevor Fishlock

GLC abolition debate

Continued from page 1

It was on the question of the abolition of the GLC that the Government's majority fell to its lowest figure of 23 last week, with scores of Tories either opposing the Government or abstaining.

But ministers will make such a concession only if the Bill is still held up in the lords late in July, imperilling their target date for royal assent in November.

Ministers are aware that by making such a concession only at the eleventh hour they will ensure that the all-London authority will be only the palest shadow of the GLC, since the dispersal of its more important functions will by then have been provided for.

Lords appeal on pill ruling

Continued from page 1

Mrs Marjorie Proops, the *Daily Mirror* columnist who, with other "agony aunts", has criticized Mrs Gillick's campaign, predicted more illegitimate births. She received hundreds of letters each year from girls who could be affected by the judgment.

"I am not talking about middle-class families like Mrs Gillick's, where the children are articulate and have caring and thoughtful parents who can look after them. The kids I am speaking of are very often rejected, from broken homes, who are not articulate and who would not be able to discuss sex with their parents", she said.

Mrs Gillick, aged 37, said yesterday that since her fight against the DHSS first went to the High Court six months ago, her children had been kicked and punched in the streets, gangs of youths had kicked their front door night after night, and the family had received obscene telephone calls and abusive letters.

More razzmatazz than ever before

Continued from page 1

He became a Central Committee secretary under Brezhnev in 1965, and joined the Politburo as a full member in 1976.

Marshal Ustinov came to earn the respect of senior officers, but sometimes clashed with them, most notably with Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, who fell from power as Chief of Staff in September.

Soviet sources said Marshal Ustinov would receive full state honours.

The implications, page 4
Obituary, page 10

Today's events

New exhibitions

Solution of Puzzle No 16,612
RIGHT OFF BLINDS
JAMMIE BENTLEY
ASCOT ECONOMIST
G. E. SPENCER
STRANGE
PERCESSION
LILLIES CHARLES
INGERS APPENDIX

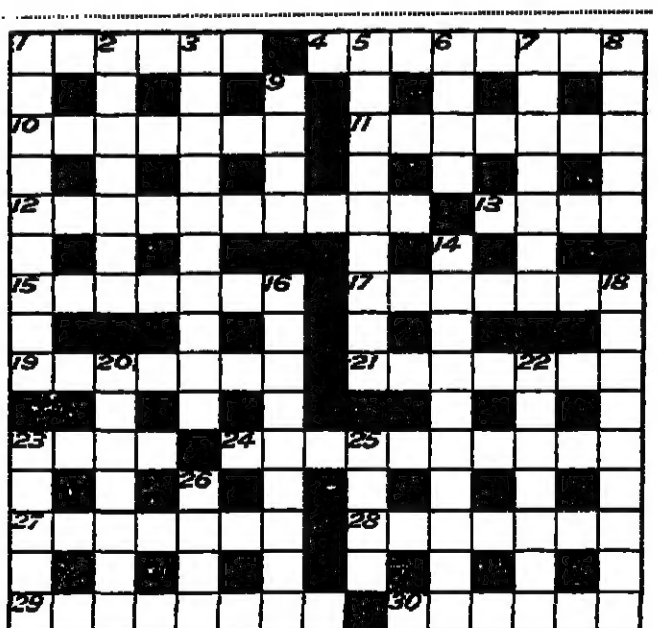
Solution of Puzzle No 16,617
ANCESTRAL SCRAP
KAYMACDONALD
ADVENTURE
P. L. K. H. I. T. R. E. A. D.
STEAL SPRINTER
H. A. P. I. T. A. T. I. O. N.
M. A. D. O. N. A. N. A. L.
S. E. C. R. E. T. R. E. A. D. E. S.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,618

Prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions sent next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Crossword Competition, 12 Colney Street, London WC9 9JT. The names and solutions will be published next Saturday.

For a news of last Saturday's competition see: *Katherine Brunel*, 71 Church Road, Richmond, Surrey; *Mr A. M. Curran*, Floral Arts, Grafton Road, Bovingdon, Bucks; *Richard J. Cornwell*, 23 Stanley Park Road, Carshalton, Surrey.

Name: _____
Address: _____



- ACROSS**
- 1 Pool-pool journalist's return journey (6)
 - 4 City position still producing great joy (8)
 - 10 Clue - eg "wild about love" in pastoral poem (7)
 - 11 Connection, married - if old, he was a source of light (7)
 - 12 Artist going round the native country (10)
 - 13 A point about age (4)
 - 15 The Devil's familiar jokes (3,4)
 - 17 A bench to get across (7)
 - 19 Secured confidence, say (7)
 - 21 Laced it afresh, in adjectival order (7)
 - 23 Share a common boundary with a reservation (4)
 - 24 Sinister woman has a record with soundtracks (5,5)
 - 27 A catch is about to go astray - how humiliating! (7)
 - 28 Boor receives no approval as an observer (4,3)
 - 29 Oddly, Crete not Italy gave us this art style (8)
 - 30 I mean what I say about a friend (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Had a vision about fur wrap for a wonderful girl (5-4)
 - 2 Allied with Rex, and exultant (7)
 - 3 Godsend - eg extraordinary persistence (10)
 - 5 Stop mad Dane in the row of trees (9)
 - 6 Wine put in to sweeten things (4)
 - 7 Modify a painting technique (7)
 - 8 May get on as a rule (3)
 - 9 Tinker bowled a length (4)
 - 14 When Houdini bought his equipment (5,5)
 - 16 Incidental illustration, when mounted, is a joy (9)
 - 18 Between you and me, it might help your solving (9)
 - 20 A I do rising note to hoot (7)
 - 22 Loiter loosely round female - in clover, maybe (7)
 - 23 Girl takes exercises to get fit (5)
 - 25 Young 'un, left in bed (4)
 - 26 The bird is down (4)

The Times Jumbo Crossword with an additional set of concise clues is on page 14.

Today's events

New exhibitions

Solution of Puzzle No 16,612
RIGHT OFF BLINDS
JAMMIE BENTLEY
ASCOT ECONOMIST
G. E. SPENCER
STRANGE
PERCESSION
LILLIES CHARLES
INGERS APPENDIX

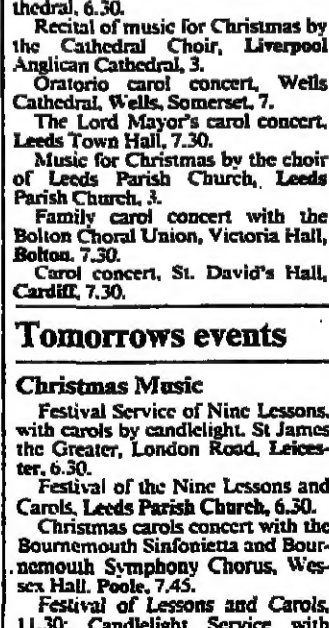
Solution of Puzzle No 16,617
ANCESTRAL SCRAP
KAYMACDONALD
ADVENTURE
P. L. K. H. I. T. R. E. A. D.
STEAL SPRINTER
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M. A. D. O. N. A. N. A. L.
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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,618

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The Times Jumbo Crossword with an additional set of concise clues is on page 14.

Today's events

New exhibitions

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PERCESSION
LILLIES CHARLES
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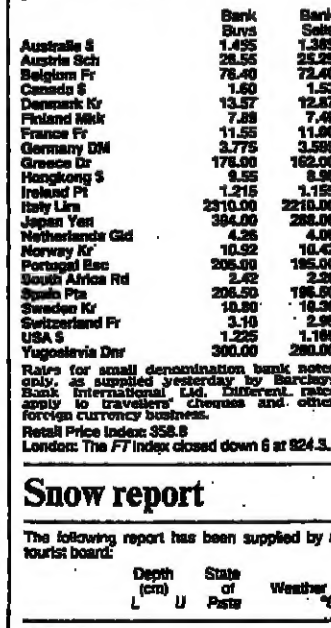
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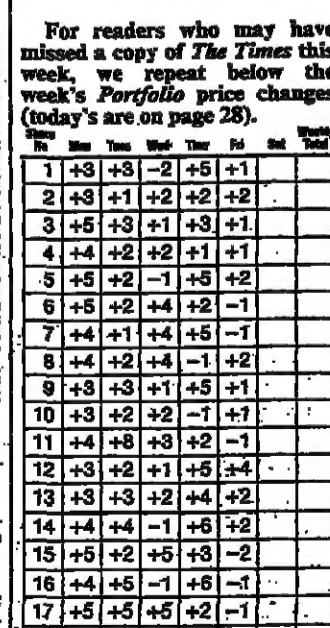
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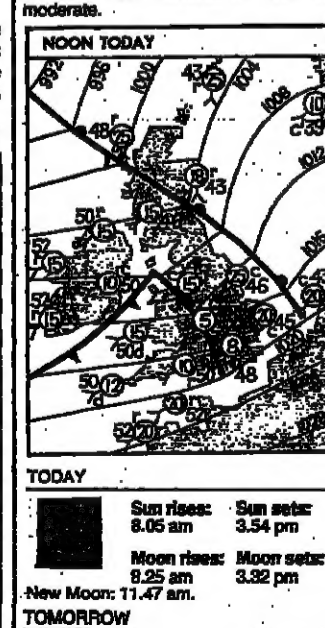
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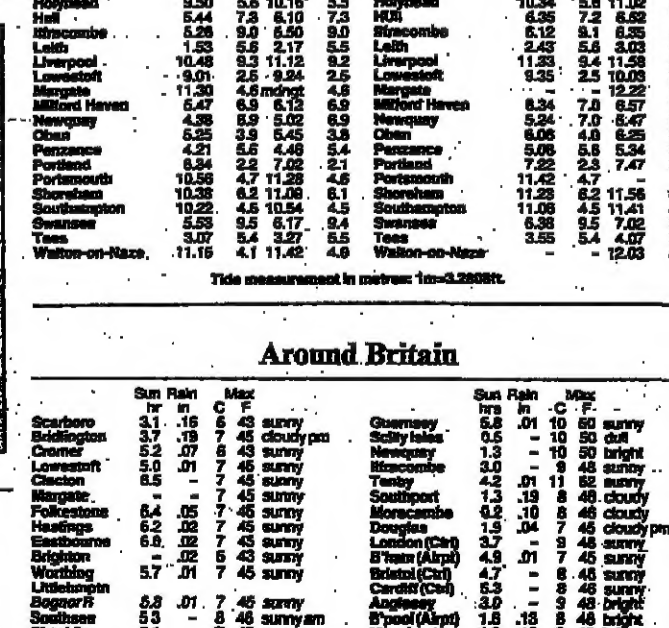
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